

Let's knit

YARN SHOP DAY
WHAT'S ON WHERE

YARN
SHOP
DAY
2nd May 2014

DEBBIE BLISS
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ISSUE 79 MAY 2014

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153 ideas
FOR SUMMER!

- ❁ LACY VEST TOP
- ❁ VAL PIERCE MERMAID
- ❁ PICNIC BLANKET



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Welcome... to Let's Knit

Meet the Team...



Deputy Editor,
Adrienne Chandler

adrienne.chandler@aceville.co.uk

This month...

As well as getting excited about Yarn Shop Day, I've been finding fabulous needles to display (p63) and sourcing colourful knitty goodies that just scream 'summer' (p16) **Adrienne's favourite project:** Lyndsey (p42)



Editorial Assistant,
Amy Adams

amy.adams@aceville.co.uk

This month...

I've been catching up with Debbie Bliss, and coveting her brand new knitting-themed Home Collection of mugs, tea towels and totes! (p54) **Amy's favourite project:** Bosco (p17)



Tape measure handbag, p16

Visit www.letsknit.co.uk to view the winners

Need to get in touch?

Pattern queries: call 01206 508622 or email support@letsknit.co.uk

Advertising enquiries: call Julie Freestone on 01206 505913 or email julie.freestone@aceville.co.uk

Subscription queries: call 0844 844 0947 or email letsknit@servicehelpline.co.uk



Editor, Sarah Neal

The **warmer months** of the year are a great opportunity to tackle a few of those more unusual knitting projects. E-reader cosies, socks and cushions are ideal for keeping your knitting hands busy through **summer**, and we've got patterns for all three in this issue, on pages 17, 23 and 44. If you're normally an accessories knitter then why not give Charlotte Walford's headband (p51) a try? This small item features some **gorgeous lace** stitches so it's a chance to improve your skills. And if you're attending any weddings this summer then our **adorable** mice bride and groom (p31) would make a treasured keepsake for the happy couple.

Knitting for babies is **perfect** for any time of year, and your bonus booklet has no less than 20 fabulous patterns, including lots of **opportunities** to use your 3.25mm needles. My favourite is the Peggy Sue smocked dress on page 14. It was **designed** by the amazing Debbie Bliss, with whom we have an exclusive interview on page 54. If you love Debbie's yarns and patterns as much as we do then now is the time to subscribe to Let's Knit magazine, and receive a **free gift** of Debbie Bliss yarn and pattern books.

It's Yarn Shop Day on 3rd May – hurrah! Turn to page 65 for a flavour of what's in store on the day, and visit our website www.letsknit.co.uk for up-to-the-minute information on events near you.

Happy knitting!

Sarah

sarah.neal@aceville.co.uk



Our resident toy designer Val Pierce has created Jecelyn, a beautiful mermaid. You'll find her on page 12.



Lyndsey is Deputy Editor Adrienne's favourite project from this month's issue!



This gorgeous smock dress from your Adorable Baby Knits book was designed by Debbie Bliss.


JOIN @LETSKNITMAG ON



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Ahoy! Siân Brown's nautical shirt is here to help you sail into summer


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Knitted with a beautiful textured pattern, try this cosy cardi

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Quick Knit

Who cares? ...We do!

At **Let's Knit** we understand that nothing is more annoying than errors in knitting patterns. As part of our total commitment to ensuring that your experience of our magazine is as enjoyable as possible, we're proud to offer

THE LET'S KNIT PATTERN PROMISE:
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By post: at the address on page 92 (please mark your envelope 'Support')
(Please note we cannot offer assistance with patterns not published in Let's Knit)

This month's fabulous



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17 Bosco



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This
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book and
3.25mm
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31 Forever



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93 Heligan



93 Heligan





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Patterns from MillaMia Book – Close Knit Gang

this month we LOVE!

It's the month we've all been waiting for...Yarn Shop Day is here!

Hip hip hurray for YARN SHOP DAY!

After many months of excitement and planning, we can't wait for 3rd May to arrive! In case you haven't heard about the campaign yet, it's all about showing some love for local bricks-and-mortar yarn shops and the marvellous services they provide for the knitting community. On 3rd May over 100 yarn shops around the UK will be celebrating in their own way, whether by offering free tea and biscuits, putting on workshops or hosting a visit from one of the Love Your Yarn Shop ambassadors, including top designers Louisa Harding, Erika Knight and Sue Stratford. If you regularly visit your local yarn shop, make sure you go along to support them on the day. If you're not used to shopping in-store, this is the perfect opportunity to pay your local shop a visit and meet lots of like-minded knitters! Turn to page 65 to read more about the plans for the big day or go to www.letsknit.co.uk/blog for an up-to-date list of all the shops involved.



This month we're KNITTING...

LK Deputy Editor Adrienne Chandler has whipped up this enormous crocheted teacup! She said, "I'm heading off to a WI camping trip in the summer, where we're going to yarnbomb a tree with Alice in Wonderland-inspired makes. I thought a giant crocheted teacup would fit the bill perfectly!"



This month's TOP BUY

These darling little brooches from The Little Knit Kit Company have caught our eye recently and we love how unique they are! If you like them, you'll love the matching pair of earrings, and you may be interested to learn that a crochet hook and yarn brooch is available too. The brooch is available in five colours and can be purchased for £10 at www.thelittleknitkitcompany.co.uk



DATES for your DIARY

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
3rd	Yarn Shop Day	Nationwide	www.letsknit.co.uk
3-5th	Weald of Kent Craft & Design show	Tonbridge, Kent	www.ichfevents.co.uk
9th-18th	Black Sheep Wools Ten Day Sale	Craft Barn, Warrington	www.blacksheepwools.com
13-15th	The Great Yorkshire Wool Hunt	Bradford	www.knitforpeace.org.uk
24th	Highland Wool Festival	Dingwall Mart	www.highlandwoolfestival.co.uk
31st May-28th June	The Wool and Willow Festival	Llanidloes, Powys	www.woolandwillowfestival.org



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LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE GARMENT PATTERN

Nicky is a
nautical t-shirt by
Siân Brown

This fun t-shirt has a classic nautical theme and will have you longing to push the boat out and take a bank holiday trip to the seaside. Nicky is a manageable project for beginners and experts alike; the bold stripe pattern is easy to follow so just toe the line and it should be plain sailing!

START KNITTING ON P10

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22)

To fit chest (cm):

81 (86, 92, 97, 102, 107, 112, 117)

Actual chest (cm):

88 (94, 100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130)

Length to shoulder (cm):

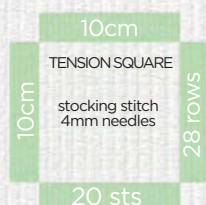
50 (51, 52, 53, 54.5, 55.5, 57, 58)

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Cotton DK, (A) shade 02 Ecru, 5 (5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7) 50g balls, (B) shade 20 Avocado, 2 (2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4) 50g balls, (C) shade 61 Turquoise 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm included with this issue of LK, 4mm

Buttons: anchor, two



ABOUT THE YARN

Debbie Bliss Cotton DK is a machine washable 100% cotton yarn that is ideal for spring and summer garments. You'll find it available in a range of bright shades, should you wish to mix the colours up a bit.

Need an alternative yarn?

Rico Essentials Cotton DK is a fine and smooth mercerised cotton yarn with excellent stitch definition. It is Rico's most popular yarn for summer, making it ideal for this project.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Debbie Bliss Cotton DK costs £3.59 per 50g (84m) ball from 01926 882818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Rico Essentials Cotton DK costs £2.89 per 50g (130m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

For 10% off all orders at Deramores, turn to page 25



Stripe sequence

□ Rows 1-4: yarn A

□ Rows 5-6: yarn C

START KNITTING HERE

Back

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on 88 (94, 100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130) sts

□ K 25 rows

Change to 4mm needles, join in yarn A and working in Stripe sequence cont as folls:

□ Beg with a k row, work four rows in st st

□ Dec row (RS): k6, skpo, k to last eight sts, k2tog, k6

□ Work three rows in st st

□ Rep last four rows four more times, then work dec row again. 76 (82, 88, 94, 100, 106, 112, 118) sts

□ Work five rows in st st

□ Inc row: k7, m1, k to last seven sts, m1, k7

□ Rep last six rows five more times. 88 (94, 100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130) sts

□ Cont without shaping until piece meas 30 (30, 31, 31, 32, 32, 33, 33) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a p row

SHAPE RAGLAN ARMHOLES

□ Cast off 4 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) sts at beg of next two rows. 80 (84, 88, 92, 96, 100, 104, 108) sts

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH SIZES ONLY

□ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2

□ Beg with a p row, work three rows in st st

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SIZES ONLY

□ Rep last four rows 2 (2, 1, 1, -, -, -, -) more times. 74 (78, 84, 88, 94, 98, 104, 108) sts

ALL SIZES

□ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2

□ Next row: p to end **

□ Rep last two rows 13 (14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26) times. 46 (48, 48, 50, 50, 52, 52, 54) sts
Leave sts on a holder

Front

□ Work as Back to **



□ Rep last two rows 1 (2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14) times. 70 (72, 72, 74, 74, 76, 76, 78) sts

SHAPE FRONT NECK

□ Next row: k2, skpo, k20, k2tog, k1, turn and work on these sts for first side of neck shaping. 25 sts

□ Next row: p

□ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 23 sts

□ Rep last two rows ten more times, then rep p row once more

Three sts

Leave sts on a holder

□ With RS facing, sl centre 16 (18, 18, 20, 20, 22, 22, 24) sts on a holder, rejoin yarn to rem sts, k1, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 25 sts

□ Next row: p

□ Next row: k1, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 23 sts

□ Rep last two rows ten more times and p row again.

Three sts

Leave sts on a holder

Sleeves

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on 70 (74, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98) sts

□ K five rows

SHAPE RAGLAN ARMHOLES

□ Cast off 4 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) sts at beg of next two rows. 62 (64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76) sts

Change to 4mm needles, join in yarn A or yarn C as required and cont in Stripe sequence

□ Next row: using same yarn shade as Row 1 of Back raglan shaping, k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2

□ Next row: p

□ Rep last two rows 19 (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26) times. 22 sts
Leave sts on a holder

Neckband

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, and with RS facing, k21 sts from left sleeve, k last st tog with first st on Front, k2, pick up and k 16 sts down left side of Front neck, k across 16 (18, 18, 20, 20, 22, 22, 24) sts on Front neck holder, pick up and k 16 sts up right side of Front neck, k2, k last st on Front tog with first st on right sleeve, k20, k last st tog with first st on Back, k45 (47, 47, 49, 49, 51, 51, 53). 141 (145, 145, 149, 149, 153, 153, 157) sts

□ K five rows

- ❑ Dec row: k1, * [skpo, k7] three times, skpo, k6 (7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 10), rep from * three more times
- ❑ K five rows
- ❑ Dec row: k1, * [skpo, k6] three times, skpo, k5 (6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9), rep from * three more times
- ❑ K two rows
- ❑ Cast off

To make up

Join raglans and Neckband seam. Join side and sleeve edging seams. Sew cast-off sts of sleeve edging to cast-off sts on Back and Front. Sew on buttons **LK**

"I love the detail of the anchor buttons on Nicky's neckline. If you can't find themed buttons like this, why not try embroidering a simple motif instead?"



LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
AMY ADAMS

Skirt, £7.99, H&M, scarf, £3.99, New Look, glasses, £24.99, TK Maxx

knitwise

EARN YOUR STRIPES: When working stripes like this, it is a good idea to carry the yarns up the side of the work, rather than cutting the yarn each time. This saves time and is also a more economic use of your yarn.

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Height: 38cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Cygnet DK (A) shade 159 Flesh, (B) shade 233 Lilac, (C) shade 161 Buttercream, one 100g ball of each (D) Rico Design Creative Reflection shade 004 Pastel, one 50g ball

Needles: 4mm

Tapestry needle

Ribbon: satin, 1cm x 0.5m, blue

Buttons: shell and pearl, two

Butterfly motif

Beads: small seed, pearl and pink

Strong white cotton

Safety toy stuffing

ABOUT THE YARN

Cygnet DK is a 100% acrylic yarn available in a huge range of colours. It is machine washable, making it ideal for well-loved toys. **Rico Design Creative Reflection** is a variegated yarn made from 46% wool, 46% acrylic and 8% polyester. It has a sparkly metallic thread to add a hint of underwater magic. Use the pale blue and aqua colours for this project.

Need an alternative yarn?

Patons Fab DK is a 100% acrylic yarn which is available in both 100g and 25g balls. Try shades (A) 02365, (B) 02364 and (C) 02330 to match. **James C. Brett Moonlight Sonata** is an acrylic, wool and mohair blend yarn with metallic fibres. Try shade (D) 2 to match.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Cygnet DK costs £1.85 per 100g (293m) ball from 0845 519 7897, www.knittybitz.com

Rico Design Creative

Reflection costs

£2.99 per 50g

(240m) ball from

01925 764231,

www.blacksheepwools.com



Patons Fab

DK costs

£1.99 per

100g (274m)

and James C.

Brett

Moonlight

Sonata costs £5.39 per 100g

(500m) ball from 0800 488

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LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE TOY PATTERN

Jecelyn is a beautiful mermaid toy by Val Pierce

Mermaids have been appearing in myths and legends around the world for thousands of years. From Ancient Greece to modern fairytales, they have captured the imagination of millions, whether in stories or songs. With her flowing blonde hair and sparkling lilac tail, Jecelyn will make a wonderful companion for your child as their own thoughts stretch to what may be found under the sea.

START KNITTING HERE

Lower Body and Tail

Using 4mm needles and yarn B, cast on 36 sts

□ Work 16 rows in st st

□ Next row: * k3, skpo, rep from * to last st, k1. 29 sts

□ Beg with a p row, work 11 rows in st st

□ Next row: * k2, skpo, rep from * to last st, k1. 22 sts

□ Beg with a p row, work 11 rows in st st

□ Next row: * k2, skpo, rep from * to last two sts, k2. 17 sts

□ Beg with a p row, work nine rows in st st

□ Cast off

Join seam on lower body, noting it will run down back of toy

TAIL FIN

Flatten base, using 4mm needles and yarn B, pick up and k eight sts along lower front edge of work

□ Next row: (kfb) in each st. 16 sts

□ Next row: * k1, p1, rep from * to end

This row sets rib

□ Next row: work in rib

□ Next row: kfb in first st, rib to last st, kfb. 18 sts

□ Next row: work in rib,

working inc sts into patt

□ Work one row in rib

□ Keeping rib correct, inc one st at each end of next and every third row until there are 26 sts

□ Work eight rows in rib

□ Dec one st at each end of next and every following third row until 16 sts rem

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end

□ Next row: k

□ Cast off

Upper body and head

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 36 sts

□ Work 22 rows in st st, pm for neckline

□ Work a further 26 rows in st st

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end. 18 sts

□ Next row: p

□ Next row: (k2tog) to end. Nine sts

□ Next row: p

Cut yarn leaving a long tail and thread through rem sts, pull tightly and fasten off. Sew seam running down back of doll, leaving base open to stuff. Stuff head, then semi-stuff body. Using tapestry needle and matching yarn, and beginning at back seam on neck row, sew together using mattress stitch, pull up tight to form head. Continue to stuff body but do not close base

Arms (make two)

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on nine sts

□ P one row

□ Next row: (kfb) to end. 18 sts

□ Work 20 rows in st st

□ Next row: * k7, kfb, k2, kfb, k7. 20 sts



KEEP KNITTING ON P14

PRETTY
**KEEPSAKE
TOY**



"Be careful when adding the stuffing – you want to strike a balance between getting the right shape for your doll and ensuring she's still soft enough to cuddle!"

LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT AMY ADAMS

knitwise

PERFECT FIN-ISH! The shape of Jecelyn's tail fin is created by increasing stitches at the beginning and end of rows, using kfb (this involves knitting into the front and back of the stitch). Make sure that when you are working on these new stitches, you keep the rib pattern correct by knitting or purling as appropriate. In a k1, p1 rib, this will be easy to determine – simply do the opposite to the stitch you have just worked or are about to work.

- Next row: p
- Work six rows in st st
- Next row: (k2tog) to end. Ten sts
- Next row: p
- Next row: (k2tog) to end. Five sts
- Cut yarn leaving a long tail and thread through rem sts, pull tightly and fasten off

Crop top

- Using 4mm needles and yarn D, cast on 40 sts
- K two rows
 - Work four rows in st st
 - Next row: cast off ten sts, k to end. 30 sts
 - Next row: cast off ten sts, p to end. 20 sts
 - Next row: k2tog, k to last

- two sts, k2tog. 18 sts
- Next row: k2, p5, k2, turn
 - Work on these nine sts only
 - Next row: k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2. Seven sts
 - Next row: k2, p3, k2
 - Next row: k2, k3tog, k2. Five sts
 - Next row: k2, p1, k2
 - Next row: k1, k3tog, k1. Three sts
 - Work in garter st for a further 5cm
 - Cast off
 - Join yarn at rem sts
 - Work to match first side

To make up

Take Lower body, fold tail in half and sew side seams. Stuff lightly and sew open end to

other side of body. Stuff Lower body to around halfway, take Upper body and slot inside Lower body, adding extra stuffing as required. Sew in place around waist. Sew Arms on to Upper body. Cut yarn C and yarn D into 40cm lengths, mainly using yarn C. Fold yarn in half and sew along top of the head in bunches to form hair. Divide each side into sections and plait, sewing plaits to the head. Leave ends of hair loose to cover shoulders. Make long plait using 15 strands of yarn, sew to centre of hair at front then sew to sides of head, overlap at back of the head, secure and add ribbon bow. Sew shell buttons on either side for earrings. Thread seed beads onto cotton held double, sew to neck on either side. Embroider features using image as a guide. Sew crop top at back, slip onto doll, take straps and sew behind neck. Glue or stitch motif to front. To create scales effect, thread a tapestry needle with

yarn D, and beginning at waist edge of Lower body, start to embroider chain-stitch scales, leaving approximately five stitches between points to begin with. Stitch alternate points on each row to form 'diamond' shapes. Work over entire Lower body. Work along ribs in tail in chain stitch, using photo as a guide. Attach a ribbon bow to front of tail at base **LK**



"The embroidery for the scales of the mermaid are quite intricate to complete, so if you find it a little too difficult you could always knit the tail of the doll in stripes of both plain and a sparkly yarn to give a special effect."

LK DESIGNER VAL PIERCE

coming next issue

FABULOUS DOLPHIN BY VAL PIERCE

June issue of Let's Knit on sale Friday 9th May



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SUMMER STYLE

Knit with silk. This vibrant cardigan is made in new Rowan Truesilk, a luxurious pure silk yarn that's perfect for the season. Get the pattern book from **£9.50, 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com**



PARTY TIME

Fly the flag. This pretty Mrs Fox bunting from ENGELS is ideal for parties, picnics and year-round celebrations. **£32.50, 01373 455080, www.sistersguild.co.uk**



TIN-SEL TOWN

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ON THE BUTTON

Choose handmade. We love Laura Lee's handpainted china buttons that look just like the real thing. **£4.95 each, 07805 066417, www.lauraleedesigns.co.uk**



PEN FRIEND

Be prepared. Highlighters like these are really handy for crossing off pattern rows as you work. **£9, 0207 998 0185, www.maidenshop.com**

Turn to page 44 for our pick of vibrant candy-coloured cotton yarns



STEP UP

Put your best foot forward. Check out Regia Fluoromania, a striking sock yarn from Schachenmayr. **£8.40 per 100g (420m) ball, 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com**



MADE TO MEASURE

Spread the word. Tell everyone about your passion for crafts with this quirky handbag. **£25, 01765 607417, www.lucy-king.com**

Colour of MAGIC

Check out our cheery pick of bright and beautiful goodies

Summer is the season for all things colourful - blue skies, yellow sun and vibrant knitting accessories. We've even got a dyeing kit so you can create your own kaleidoscopic projects. Enjoy!

SEEING SPOTS

Get toolled up. Vibrant ArtViva needles made from Tansmanian oak. From **£9.96, 01377 255093, www.littlehoundsknits.com**



TO DYE FOR

Unleash your inner artist. Experiment with Kool Aid dyeing with these great kits from Debbie Tomkies. **£15, 0161 718 3818, www.dtcrafts.co.uk**

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE ACCESSORY PATTERNS

Bosco is a pair of *e-reader cosies* that are bursting with *character*

If you don't want your e-reader to get scratched, we've got just the characters for you! Designed by Kelly Menzies, this watchful woodland pair are a fun way to protect your gadgets around the house and on the go. The fox will stay alert throughout the day and the owl will keep guard by night! Foxes and owls are everywhere at the moment so these cosies are bang on trend!

PROTECT
YOUR
GADGETS!

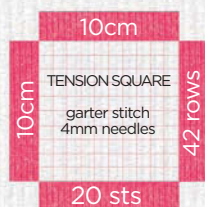
START KNITTING ON P18

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Size: (To fit original Kindle or similar-sized e-reader) 18cm x 12cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: King Cole Merino Blend DK,
Fox: (A) shade 109 Copper,
 (B) shade 001 White, (C) shade
 048 Black, one 50g ball of each,
Owl: (D) shade 857 Bark, (E) shade
 041 Oatmeal, one 50g ball of each
Needles: 4mm
Buttons: **Fox:** small, black, three,
Owl: large, two; small, black, two;
 toggle, one



ABOUT THE YARN

King Cole Merino Blend DK is a 100% pure wool yarn that is deliciously soft and machine washable. It has a unique 'anti-tickle' effect, which makes it irresistible even to reluctant wool wearers. It is an everyday yarn ideal for accessories.

Need an alternative yarn?
Rico Essentials Merino DK is a 100% merino wool extra fine superwash yarn. It is a popular clothing and accessories yarn, as it is easy to knit with and results in very even fabric.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



King Cole Merino Blend DK costs £3.14 per 50g (112m) ball from 0117 300 5211, www.getknitted.com



Rico Essentials Merino DK costs £3.69 per 50g (120m) ball from 01926 882818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk



START KNITTING HERE

FOX

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 23 sts
 □ K 12 rows
 Change to yarn B
 □ K 50 rows until piece meas 14.5cm, ending after a WS row
 Change to yarn C
 □ K 16 rows
 Change to yarn A
 □ K 96 rows until piece meas 43cm
 □ Cast off three sts at beg of next six rows. Five sts

BUTTONHOLE

□ K five rows
 □ Next row: k2, yfwd, k2tog, k1
 □ K two rows
 □ Cast off

Ear fronts (make two)

NOTE: Letters following instructions denote correct yarn shade
 Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 12 sts
 □ Row 1: k
 □ Row 2: k2 A, k8 B, k2 A
 □ Row 3: k1 A, ssk A, p6 B, k2tog A, k1 A. Ten sts
 □ Row 4: k2 A, k6 B, k2 A
 □ Row 5: k1 A, ssk A, p4 B, k2tog A, k1 A. Eight sts
 □ Row 6: k2 A, k4 B, k2 A
 □ Row 7: k1 A, ssk A, p2 B,

k2tog A, k1 A. Six sts
 □ Row 8: k2 A, k2 B, k2 A
 Cont in yarn A only
 □ Row 9: k1, ssk, k2tog, k1. Four sts
 □ Row 10: k
 □ Row 11: k1, k2tog, k1. Three sts
 □ Row 12: k
 □ Row 13: sl 1, k2tog, psso. One st
 Cut yarn, pull through rem loop and pull tight

Ear backs (make two)

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 12 sts
 □ Row 1-2: k
 □ Row 3: k1, ssk, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. Ten sts
 □ Rep rows 2-3 until four sts rem
 □ Row 11: k1, k2tog, k1. Three sts

Slip slip knit (SSK)



1 One at a time, slip the next two stitches on the left-hand needle knitwise onto the right-hand needle. Because you have slipped the sts, you have turned them and what were the back loops are now at the front.

□ Row 12: k
 □ Row 13: sl 1, k2tog, psso. One st
 Cut yarn, pull through rem loop and pull tight

To make up

With WS facing, fold cosy in half so Front is 18cm long and there is approx 11cm of flap above (including buttonhole pointed section). Sew up each side. With WS facing, sew Ears up using one Back and one Front for each. Attach Ears to top of cosy at back. Sew nose button in place. It is easiest to place an e-reader inside to do this, but if not, button should be approx 8.5cm from top of pocket. Place eyes on either side and secure



2 Knit them together through the back loops; to do this, put the left-hand needle into the stitches in front of the right-hand needle, and knit the two together.

knitwise

BUTTON UP!

When sewing on a button that will be functional as well as decorative, make sure you don't secure it too closely against the knitting. Once you have sewn the button in place, bring the needle through to the front of the fabric, but not through the button. Wrap the yarn around the button stitches a few times between the button and the right side of the work. Take the needle to the wrong side of the work, secure and cut the thread.

OWL

Using 4mm needles and yarn E, cast on 23 sts

□ K 50 rows. Work should meas 12cm from cast-on edge
Change to yarn D and work in patt as folls:

□ Row 1: k

□ Row 2: k1, * sl 1 pwise wyib, k1, rep from * to end

□ Row 3: k

□ Row 4: k2, * sl 1 pwise wyib, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Rep Rows 1-4 until work meas approx 40cm ending after a Row 4

BEAK

□ Row 1: k1, ssk, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 21 sts

□ Row 2: k2, * sl 1 pwise wyib, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Rep Rows 1-2 until you have seven sts, ending after a Row 2

□ Row 17: k1, ssk, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k1. Five sts

□ Row 18: k

□ Row 19: k1, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k1. Three sts

□ Row 20: k

□ Row 21: sl 1, k2tog, pssso.

One st

Cut yarn, thread through rem loop and pull tight

To make up

With WS facing, fold cosy in half so Front is 18cm long and there is approx 10.5cm of flap above. Sew up each side. Sew nose button in place. It is easiest to place an e-reader inside to do this, but if not, button should be approx 8.5cm from top of pocket. Place eyes on either side using large buttons first and smaller buttons sewn into the middle and secure **LK**



"If you don't have an e-reader, why not adapt these simple patterns to make a phone, camera or tablet cosy?"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

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Inspiration STATION

Our round-up of what's hot in the knitting universe

Warm and toasty

Rowan's brand new Pure Wool Worsted is available in a whopping 50 shades! Celebrate the release by downloading 14 homewares patterns completely free of charge, including this gorgeous cushion by Konrad Siebenhuter. Just go to www.knitrowan.com



Wicked cricket

Mia is a new cotton and wool yarn from Debbie Bliss, which works particularly well with textured stitches, such as this beautiful Cricket Slipover. To find out more about designer Debbie Bliss and the inspiration behind her spring 2014 collections, turn to p54.

01535 664222,

www.designeryarns.uk.com



Puppy love

We adore *Friends Forever* by Sue Jobson, Sirdar's new book of toys – particularly these perfect puppies! 01924 371501, www.sirdar.co.uk



Where there's smoke...



Love British yarn?

Smoke, from Easyknits.co.uk, is a colourful 4ply yarn in generous 100g (335m) skeins. It blends together the best of British fibres, including the bounce of Exmoor Blueface, lustre of Wensleydale, and the rustic charm of Zwarbles. It is spun right here in the UK and comes in eight rainbow colours, and two natural greys. 07793 776011, www.easyknits.co.uk

Did you know?

Entries are now welcomed for the UKHKA Open Category for this year's Knitted Textile Awards! www.ukhandknitting.com

Super storage

Circular needles can be tricky to store easily, so why not invest in one of these gorgeous faux-leather cases? With an accordion style opening and adjustable slots, they're the ideal organisation tool. One double wide case costs £28.99 from **0800 488 0708**, www.deramores.com



On the trail

Woolly bicycles will be appearing throughout Yorkshire this summer as part of the county's arts and culture festival, which will welcome the Tour de France. Part of a project by yarnbomber Cassandra Kilbride, local knitters can attend workshops around the county over the coming months to help knit their own little piece of the project. Go to www.festival.yorkshire.com to book a place on the workshops, or call **0113 322 3500**.



Blog heaven

Deramores is on the hunt for undiscovered blogging talent in the crafting community! The team is searching for one knitting and one crochet blogger, and LK Editor Sarah Neal will be on the panel of judges. Go to www.deramores.com to enter.



Charity of the Month

Freedom From Fistula Foundation

Around two million women in Africa suffer with an obstetric fistula, a condition which usually occurs during obstructed labour when emergency care is unavailable. The Freedom From Fistula Foundation not only tries to provide treatment for these women, but also teaches skills and provides the care needed to help rebuild their lives. That's why they need your help in their Big Knit Challenge! They are asking for 15cm blanket squares for mothers and children, as well as baby hats and booties. Go to www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk for more information, or call **01738 633264**.



Going loopy?

Loopy Mango Big Loop Merino is a huge and luxurious 100% merino yarn, available in whopping 1133g skeins, and knitted on 25mm needles! There are 15 beautiful colours to choose from, each knitting up in 2-3 hours to create a blanket roughly 70cm x 100cm. Instant home style! One skein costs £149.50 from **0845 576 0007**, www.loveknitting.com

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LEARN TO
KNIT
SOCKS!

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE ACCESSORIES PATTERN

Luna is a *pretty*
pair of *sparkly* Fair Isle
socks by *Sarah Hazell*

Have you caught the sock bug yet? This centuries-old art involves using double-pointed needles to create snug little foot warmers – and once you start it can be tricky to stop! Beginning with the cuff and working down towards the heel, Luna uses a classic sock construction. Socks are well-loved for being portable and rewarding projects, so if you haven't tried them before then now is the perfect chance!

START KNITTING ON P24

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

To fit (ladies' size): 5-6

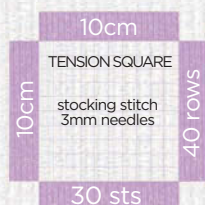
Foot length (heel to toe): 25cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: (A) Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply, shade 492 Sea, two 50g balls, (B) Anchor Artiste Metallic, shade 312 Light Blue, one 25g ball

Needles: 2.75mm double-pointed, 3mm double-pointed

Tapestry needle



ABOUT THE YARN

Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply is a classic Rowan yarn with a 50/50 blend of merino wool and cotton. Its high twist and hardy nature makes it perfect for socks. **Anchor Artiste Metallic** is a sparkly thread available in 26 striking shades.

Need an alternative yarn?



West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply is a brand new British yarn from the popular Yorkshire yarn company. It is available in 11 solid and five variegated shades. **DMC Lumina** is a sparkly metallic thread available in several different colours. It is hand wash only, so be sure to treat carefully.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply costs £6.50 per 50g (180m) ball and **Anchor Artiste Metallic** costs £4.15 per 25g (100m) ball from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com



West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply has an RRP of £7.20 per 100g (400m) ball. Contact 01535 664500, www.wyspinners.com for stockists



DMC Lumina costs £4.99 per 20g (150m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

START KNITTING HERE

SOCKS (make two)

Using 2.75mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 66 sts and distribute over four needles as follows: N1: 16 sts, N2: 17 sts, N3: 17 sts, N4: 16 sts, join in the round, taking care not to twist sts

□ Rnd 1 (RS): (k1, p1) to end

This rnd forms rib

□ Rnds 2-3: work in rib

Join in yarn B

□ Rnds 4-5: using yarn B, work in rib

□ Rnds 6-17: using yarn A, work in rib

Change to 3mm needles

□ Rnds 18-20: k

Join in yarn B

□ Work 26 rnds from Chart

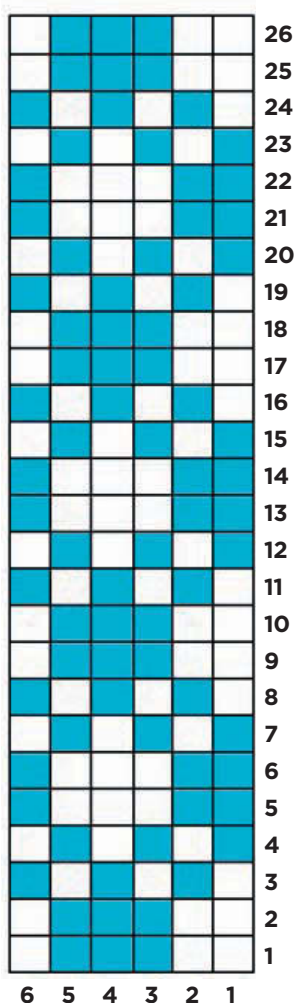
□ Using yarn A, k four rnds

SHAPE HEEL

□ Row 1 (RS): k sts from N1 on to N4 for heel sts, sl rem sts from N2 and N3 on to holder. 32 sts

□ Row 2 (WS): p to last st, w&t

□ Row 3: k to last st, w&t



Key
□ Yarn A ■ Yarn B

□ Row 4: p to last two sts, w&t
□ Row 5: k to last two sts, w&t
□ Row 6: p to last three sts, w&t

□ Row 7: k to last three sts, w&t

□ Row 8: p to last four sts, w&t

□ Row 9: k to last four sts, w&t

□ Row 10: p to last five sts, w&t

□ Row 11: k to last five sts, w&t

□ Row 12: p to last six sts, w&t

□ Row 13: k to last six sts, w&t

□ Row 14: p to last seven sts, w&t

□ Row 15: k to last seven sts, w&t

□ Row 16: p to last eight sts, w&t

□ Row 17: k to last eight sts, w&t

□ Row 18: p to last nine sts, w&t

□ Row 19: k to last nine sts, w&t

□ Row 20: p to last ten sts, w&t

□ Row 21: k to last ten sts, w&t

□ Rows 22-23: rep Rows 18-19

□ Rows 24-25: rep Rows 16-17

□ Rows 26-27: rep Rows 14-15

□ Rows 28-29: rep Rows 12-13

□ Rows 30-31: rep Rows 10-11

□ Rows 32-33: rep Rows 8-9

□ Rows 34-35: rep Rows 6-7

□ Rows 36-37: rep Rows 4-5

□ Rows 38-39: rep Rows 2-3

□ Row 40: p to end

Redistribute sts as follows: N1: 16 sts, N2: 17 sts from holder, N3: 17 sts from holder, N4: 16 sts

□ K across N4

□ K 18 rnds

Join in yarn B

□ Work first ten rnds from chart

□ Using yarn A, k 26 rnds

SHAPE TOE

□ Rnd 1: N1: k to last two sts, k2tog, N2: k1, skpo, k to end, N3: k to last three sts, k2tog, k1, N4: k2tog, k to end

□ Rnd 2: k

□ Rep last two rnds nine more times. 26 sts

Redistribute sts so that there are 16 sts from N1 and N4 on one needle and 16 sts from N2 and N3 on another

□ Graft together using Kitchener stitch (see p91)

Weave in any loose ends and block lightly **LK**

knitwise

FAIR ISLE IN THE ROUND:

Fair Isle knitting involves stranding your unused yarn across the back of the work. It is actually easier to complete Fair Isle projects when working in the round, as you are only ever knitting into the right side of the work. However, it is important to strand your yarn to the correct tension, as too loose may produce a messy finish, while stranding too tightly could leave your socks bunched up and too small to wear – disaster! Try turning your work inside out so that the right side is actually on the inside of the tube of knitting, and you are stranding your unused yarn across the outside. This will help to ensure that your tension remains consistent throughout!

Shirt £35, Fat Face, trousers £19.99, Uniqlo



"Turn to page 91 to find out how to graft the toe using Kitchener stitch, which will make your seam look invisible!"

LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT AMY ADAMS



*coming
nextissue*

SOCKS FOR DADS BY
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June issue of Let's Knit on
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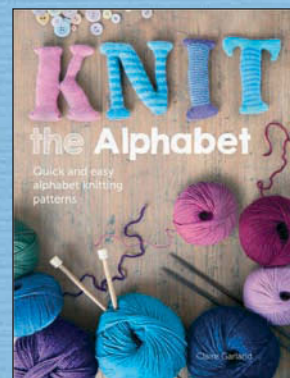
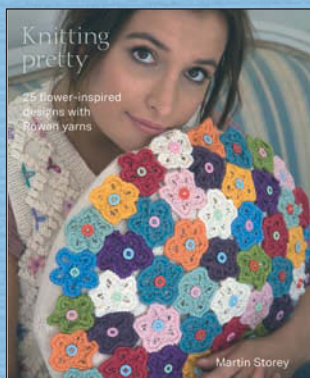
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THE Bookshelf

Our pick of this month's best knitty books, blogs and more



Fair Isle and Nordic Knits



Nicki Trench
(£12.99, CICO Books)

A continuing trend for vintage and Nordic style has seen Fair Isle knitting soar in popularity. If you love the incredible effect produced by the traditional colourwork style, then Nicki Trench's gorgeous book is a great place to start. With simple projects for beginners and complex garments for more seasoned knitters, there is truly something for everyone. We are particular fans of the adorable baby items – you can get the pattern for this duck vest in your bonus baby mag!

**0207
025 2200
www.ryland
peters.com**



Knitting Pretty



Martin Storey
(£15.99, Rowan Yarns)

Martin Storey is one of Rowan's chief designers, and has been working with the brand for almost 20 years. This beautiful collection features 25 designs inspired by flowers, making it a fantastic book for spring knitting. From geometric cushions to funky flower brooches, there are designs to suit all tastes. However, it is the delicately cabled and embroidered garments that really stand out. The projects are all made using Rowan yarns, so the stunning colour palette is sure to delight. **01484 681881, www.knitrowan.com**



Knit the Alphabet



Claire Garland
(£14.99, David and Charles)

There's a current interior design trend of spelling out meaningful words or names in beautiful handcrafted letters. Mounted on a plain wall, the word "love", "home" or a child's name can transform a room. Each of the letters in Claire Garland's new book is knitted in the round in one piece, and can be adapted to various different sizes depending on the yarn and needles used. So whether you want to knit a big chunky pillow in your initial, or spell out your name for your desk, you can adapt the pattern to suit you!

**0844 880 5851,
www.stitchcraft
create.co.uk**



Untangling Knots
www.untangling-knots.com

Andi Sutherland is a designer working in Seattle, who sells pretty and modern patterns. She also regularly updates her blog with friendly "how to..." posts and knitting advice.



Jane's Probably Knitting
janesprobablyknitting.blogspot.co.uk

Jane Lithgow has been knitting, spinning and designing for years, and her blog is a wonderful place to find inspiration. She has a particularly impressive sock collection!



KEY:



Book



Website



Podcast



Blog



App



COOL
COTTON
CARDI

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE GARMENT PATTERN

Josie is a beautiful
textured cardigan by *Pat Menchini*

Ideal for slipping over your shoulders in a light breeze, *Josie* is a year-round companion that is sure to become a favourite. Knitted in just one shade, the illusion of stripes is created with a variety of textured stitches. The pattern begins with three rows of moss stitch, followed by four rows of single rib, then another three in moss stitch. The larger panels are worked in stocking stitch, and occasionally feature twisted stitches for a little extra surface interest. The effect produces a beautiful design without using cable needles or colourwork.

START KNITTING ON P28

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18)

To fit bust (cm):

81 (86, 91, 97, 102, 107)

Actual width (cm):

90 (95, 100, 104, 109, 114)

Length from shoulder (cm):

55 (56, 57, 58, 59, 60)

Sleeve length (cm):

43 (43, 43, 43, 43, 43)

KNIT KIT

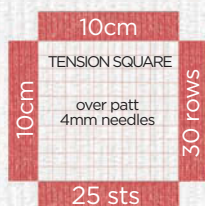
Yarn: Rico Essentials Cotton DK, shade 13 Magenta, 10 (10, 11, 11, 11, 12) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm, 4mm

Tapestry needle

Stitch holder

Buttons: 15mm, hexagon, pink, six



ABOUT THE YARN

Rico Essentials Cotton DK is a light and smooth yarn made from 100% mercerised cotton. It comes in a vast range of colours, and can be machine washed at 30°C, making it ideal for affordable summer knitting.

Need an alternative yarn?



Try **Juey Bluefaced Leicester DK** for a British wool alternative! The super soft yarn is reared, spun and dyed right here in the UK, and comes in six ice cream shades, each with a delightful lustre.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

tw2 – slip next st, k1, pass slipped st over st just worked and k into back loop

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Rico Essentials Cotton DK costs £2.89 per 50g (130m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

For 10% off all orders at Deramores, turn to page 25

10% off



Juey Bluefaced Leicester DK costs £5.90 per 50g (65m) ball from 01422 647574, www.juey.co.uk



START KNITTING HERE

Right front

Using 4mm needles, cast on 53 (56, 59, 62, 65, 68) sts

Work in patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): [p1, k1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, p1, k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)

□ Row 2: p1 (2, 1, 2, 1, 2), [k1, p1] to end

□ Row 3: k1, [k1, p1] to last 2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1) sts, k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)

□ Row 4: p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [k1, p1] to last st, p1

□ Row 5: as Row 3

□ Row 6: as Row 4

□ Row 7: [k1, p1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, k1, p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)

□ Row 8: as Row 4

□ Rows 9-12: beg with a k row,

work four rows in st st

□ Row 13: k1, * (tw2) twice, k2, rep from * to last 4 (1, 4, 1, 4, 1) sts, k4 (1, 4, 1, 4, 1)

□ Row 14: p

□ Rows 15-16: as Rows 13-14

□ Rows 17-18: beg with a k row, work in st st

These 18 rows form patt

□ Cont in patt until work meas 38cm from cast-on edge, ending at side edge

SHAPE ARMHOLE

□ Keeping patt correct, cast off loosely 7 (8, 8, 9, 9, 9) sts at beg of next row

□ Dec one st at armhole edge on next five rows then on every foll alt row until 37 (39, 42, 44, 46, 49) sts rem

□ Cont without shaping until Front meas 11 (12, 13, 13, 14, 15) cm from beg of armhole shaping ending at front edge

SHAPE NECK

□ Cast off 10 (10, 11, 11, 12, 12) sts at beg of next row

□ Dec one st at neck edge on next five rows. 22 (24, 26, 28, 29, 32) sts

□ Cont without shaping until Front meas 17 (18, 19, 20, 21, 22) cm from beg of armhole shaping ending at armhole edge

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Cast off loosely 7 (8, 9, 9, 10, 11) sts at beg of next row and foll alt row

□ Work one row

□ Cast off rem sts

Left front

□ Cast on as for Right front Work in patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), p1, [k1, p1] to end

□ Row 2: [p1, k1] to last 1 (2, 1, 2, 1, 2) sts, p1 (2, 1, 2, 1, 2)

□ Row 3: k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [p1, k1] to last st, k1

□ Row 4: p1, [p1, k1] to last 2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1) sts, p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)

□ Row 5: as Row 3

□ Row 6: as Row 4

□ Row 7: p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), k1, [p1, k1] to end

□ Row 8: as Row 4

□ Rows 9-12: beg with a k row, work in st st

□ Row 13: k4 (1, 4, 1, 4, 1), * k2, (tw2) twice, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 14: p

□ Rows 15-16: as Row 13-14

□ Rows 17-18: beg with a k row, work in st st

These 18 rows form patt

□ Complete as for

Right front

knitwise

KEEPING TRACK: With patterns that feature a variation in rows and sizes, half the battle can be keeping track of your work in relation to the text in front of you. Firstly, go through the pattern and highlight the instructions for the size you want to knit, to make sure that you can easily find the stitches relevant to you. Secondly, make sure you keep track of your row number – when switching between stocking, moss and rib, one wrong move could throw the whole pattern out. Try ticking the boxes as you complete the rows, or invest in a basic row counter to slide on to the end of your needles. Or, if you're the proud owner of a smartphone or tablet, try downloading one of the many free row counter apps!



"There is a enormous range of colours in this collection. How about palest pink for a romantic look or pure, brilliant white for a favourite summer cardigan?"

LK DESIGNER PAT MENCHINI

Back

Using 4mm needles, cast on 113 (119, 125, 131, 137, 143) sts
Work in patt as folls:

- ❑ Row 1 (RS): k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [p1, k1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, p1, k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)
- ❑ Row 2: p1 (2, 1, 2, 1, 2), [k1, p1] to last 2 (3, 2, 3, 2, 3) sts, k1, p1 (2, 1, 2, 1, 2)
- ❑ Row 3: k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [p1, k1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, p1, k2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)
- ❑ Row 4: p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [k1, p1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, k1, p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)
- ❑ Row 5: as Row 3
- ❑ Row 6: as Row 4
- ❑ Row 7: p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1), [k1, p1] to last 3 (2, 3, 2, 3, 2) sts, k1, p2 (1, 2, 1, 2, 1)
- ❑ Row 8: as Row 4
- ❑ Rows 9-18: work in st st
These 18 rows form patt
- ❑ Cont in patt until Back meas same as fronts to armhole shaping, ending after a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- ❑ Cast off 7 (8, 8, 9, 9, 9) sts at beg of next two rows
- ❑ Dec one st at each end of next five rows then on every foll alt row until 81 (85, 91, 95, 99, 105) sts rem
- ❑ Cont without shaping until Back meas same as fronts to shoulder shaping ending after a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDERS

- ❑ Cast off 7 (8, 9, 9, 10, 11) sts at beg of next four rows then 8 (8, 8, 10, 9, 10) sts at beg of next two rows
- ❑ Sl rem 37 (37, 39, 39, 41, 41) sts on to holder

Sleeves

Using 4mm needles, cast on 49 (49, 51, 51, 53, 53) sts

- ❑ Row 1 (RS): k2, [p1, k1] to last st, k1
- ❑ Row 2: p1, [k1, p1] to end
- ❑ Row 3: k2, [p1, k1] to last st, k1
- ❑ Row 4: p2, [k1, p1] to last st, p1

- ❑ Rows 5-6: as Rows 3-4
- ❑ Row 7: p2, [k1, p1] to last st, p1
- ❑ Row 8: as Row 7
- ❑ Rows 9-12: beg with a k row, work in st st inc one st at end of last row. 50 (50, 52, 52, 54, 54) sts
- ❑ Row 13: k2 (2, 3, 3, 4, 4), * (tw2) twice, k2, rep from * to last 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) sts, (tw2) twice, k2 (2, 3, 3, 4, 4)
- ❑ Row 14: p
- ❑ Rows 15-16: as Rows 13-14
- ❑ Rows 17-18: beg with a k row, work in st st dec one st at beg of last row. 49 (49, 51, 51, 53, 53) sts
- ❑ Cont in patt as for last 18 rows BUT working rows 13-16 in st st to match Back **AT THE SAME TIME** shape sleeve by inc one st at each end of next row, then on every foll 8th (6th, 6th, 4th, 4th, 4th) row until there are 71 (63, 73, 61, 69, 81) sts, then on every foll 10th (8th, 8th, 6th, 6th, 6th) row until there are 75 (79, 83, 89, 93, 97) sts
- ❑ Cont without shaping until sleeve meas 43cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE TOP

- ❑ Cast off 7 (8, 8, 9, 9, 9) sts at beg of next two rows
- ❑ Dec one st at each end of next row then on every foll RS row until 33 (35, 37, 41, 43, 43) sts rem then on every row until 23 (25, 27, 31, 33, 33) sts rem
- ❑ Cast off

Neckband

Join shoulders. Using 3.25mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and k 27 (27, 27, 30, 31, 31) sts evenly around right front neck, k across back neck sts, pick up and k 27 (27, 27, 30, 31, 31) sts evenly down left front neck. 91 (91, 93, 99, 103, 103) sts

- ❑ Row 1 (WS): k1, [p1, k1] to end

- ❑ Row 2: k2, [p1, k1] to last st, k1
- ❑ Rep last two rows twice
- ❑ Cast off in rib

Front bands

Using 3.25mm needles, cast on ten sts

- ❑ Row 1 (RS): k2, p1, k1, p2, k1, p1, k2
- ❑ Row 2: [k1, p1] twice, k2, [p1, k1] twice
- ❑ Rep these two rows until strip when slightly stretched fits up left front edge to top of Neckband, ending after a Row 2
- ❑ Cast off

Mark position on border for six buttonholes, with first 3-4 rows from top and rem five spaced at 5cm intervals

❑ Work second strip as first with buttonholes to match markers worked as folls:

- ❑ Row 1: rib 4, cast off two sts, rib to end
- ❑ Row 2: rib to cast-off sts, cast on two sts in rib, rib 4

To make up

Sew in Sleeve tops, join side and Sleeve seams, sew on borders and buttons. Press seams **LK**



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"This adorable little couple look all set for their big day! Why not try knitting a little bridesmaid or a best man (or should I say 'best mouse') with any leftover yarn?"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER



LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE TOY PATTERN

Forever is a cute little couple by *Jane Burns* who are ready to *tie the knot!*

We love a good wedding and we can't wait for the wedding season to kick off. In the meantime this loved-up little pair are getting ready for their special day! This design by Jane Burns is bursting with personality and would make a fun set for children or perhaps a personalised memento for some newly-weds.

START KNITTING ON P32

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Height: 13cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Rowan Baby Merino Silk DK, (A) shade SH672 Dawn, (B) shade SH670 Snowdrop, (C) shade SH689 Flower, (D) shade SH681 Zinc, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm double-pointed

Crochet hook: 3mm (optional)

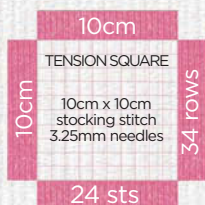
Beads: seed, size 6, four; small pearls, five

Safety toy stuffing

Sewing needle and thread, pink and grey

Netting: 10cm x 25cm, white

Small paper roses: three



ABOUT THE YARN

Rowan Baby Merino Silk DK is a luxury mix of 66% superwash merino wool and 34% silk developed specifically for babies. It is machine washable and beautifully soft so will make the perfect cuddly toy for your little ones.

Need an alternative yarn? **Debbie Bliss Rialto DK** is a 100% superwash merino wool yarn which comes in a brilliant range of colours.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Rowan Baby Merino Silk DK costs £5.39 per 50g (135m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com



Debbie Bliss Rialto DK costs £5.50 per 50g (105m) ball from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com



START KNITTING HERE

BRIDE

Body
Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn B, cast on 16 sts and distribute evenly over three needles, join in the round taking care not to twist sts

- Rnds 1-2: k
 - Rnd 3: (k2, m1) eight times. 24 sts
 - Rnds 4-5: k
 - Rnd 6: (k3, m1) eight times. 32 sts
 - Rnds 7-13: k
 - Rnd 14: (k1, k2tog) four times, k to end. 28 sts
 - Rnd 15: k
 - Rnd 16: (k2tog) four times, k to end. 24 sts
 - Rnds 17-25: k
 - Change to yarn A
 - Rnds 26-27: k
 - Rnd 28: (k1, k2tog) eight times. 16 sts
 - Rnd 29: (k2tog) eight times. Eight sts
- Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem eight sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Stuff body and close bottom with running stitch

Head

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on eight sts and distribute evenly over three needles, join into the round taking care not to twist sts

- Rnd 1: k
- Rnd 2: (k2, m1) four times. 12 sts
- Rnd 3: k
- Rnd 4: (k3, m1) four times. 16 sts

- Rnd 5: k
 - Rnd 6: (k4, m1) four times. 20 sts
 - Rnds 7-12: k
 - Rnd 13: (k2, k2tog) five times. 15 sts
 - Rnds 14-16: k
 - Rnd 17: (k1, k2tog) five times. Ten sts
 - Rnds 18-20: k
 - Rnd 21: (k2tog) five times. Five sts
- Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem five sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Stuff head and close with running stitch

Skirt

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn B, cast on 40 sts and distribute evenly over three needles, join into the round taking care not to twist sts

- Rnds 1-3: k
- Rnd 4: (k2tog, yfwd) 20 times. 40 sts
- Rnds 5-13: k
- Rnd 14: k4, (k2tog) eight times, k4, (k2tog) eight times. 24 sts
- Rnds 15-16: k
- Cast off

Place skirt on to body and sew in place. Turn up hem and stitch to WS to form picot edge

Arms (make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on seven sts

- Row 1: k, slide these seven sts to other end of needle, do not turn
- Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each

time you start a new row

- Work until i-cord meas 4cm
- Next row: k2tog, k3, k2tog. Five sts

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem five sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Using beg of grey yarn as a guide, sew arms to body

Sleeve tops

(make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn B, cast on seven sts

- Rows 1-4: beg with a p row, work in st st
- Cast off

Sew sleeve tops to tops of arms

Feet (make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on six sts

- Row 1: k, slide these six sts to other end of needle, do

knitwise

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Double-pointed needles can be used to work in the round to create a tube of knitting. As a new knitter it's easy to be put off the idea because of all the extra needles but it's easy to get the hang of. It's important to remember that you still only knit on two needles at a time so just try to ignore the needles you're not using. Using a stitch marker will help you keep track of things.

**FOR KIDS
OR NEWLY-
WEDS!**

not turn

□ Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row

□ Work five rows in total
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem six sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Stuff lightly and sew closed, sew to bottom of body in a V formation for balance

Ears (make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 11 sts

□ Row 1: sl 1, p to end

□ Row 2: sl 1, k to end
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through 11 sts and pull tight to form ear, secure with a stitch. Sew to head using image as a guide

Belt

Using 3mm crochet hook and yarn C, make a chain long enough to fit around Bride's waist. Fasten off and sew in place. Alternatively, make a twisted cord

Veil

Cut a piece of white netting 25cm x 10cm, place a running stitch along one of the longest edges and pull tight to gather fabric, secure with a stitch. Sew to top of head between ears. Trim corners of veil to a nice curve. Sew pearls along front edge of veil

Tail

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on three sts

□ Row 1: k, slide these three sts to other end of needle, do not turn

□ Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row

□ Work until tail measures 9cm
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem three sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Sew to rear of mouse

To make up

Sew eyes to head using image as a guide, sew lengths of pink thread through nose to form whiskers. Bring hands together and sew, place flowers in front of hands and sew in place

TECHNIQUE: K2TOG



Insert the right needle into the front loops of next two stitches on the left needle. Then wrap the yarn anticlockwise around the tip and knit both stitches at the same time.

GROOM

Body

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn D, cast on 16 sts and distribute evenly over three needles, join into the round taking care not to twist sts

□ Rnds 1-2: k

□ Rnd 3: (k2, m1) eight times. 24 sts

□ Rnds 4-5: k

□ Rnd 6: (k3, m1) eight times. 32 sts

□ Rnds 7-8: k

□ Rnd 9: (k4, m1) eight times. 40 sts

□ Rnds 10-13: k

□ Rnd 14: (k1, k2tog) four times, k to end. 36 sts

□ Rnd 15: k

□ Rnd 16: (k2tog) four times, k to end. 32 sts

□ Rnds 17-18: k

□ Rnd 19: (k2, k2tog) eight times. 24 sts

□ Rnds 20-25: k

Change to yarn A

□ Rnds 26-27: k

□ Rnd 28: (k1, k2tog) eight times. 16 sts

□ Rnd 29: (k2tog) eight times. Eight sts

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem eight sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch. Stuff body and close bottom with running stitch

Head

□ Work as for Bride

Sleeves (make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn D, cast on seven sts

□ Row 1: k, slide sts to other end of needle, do not turn

□ Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row

□ Work until i-cord meas 3cm

□ Cast off

Hands (make two)

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on six sts

□ Row 1: k, slide sts to other end of needle, do not turn

□ Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row

□ Work until i-cord meas 1.5cm

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem six sts and pull tight, secure with a stitch

□ Slide hand just inside cast off edge of Sleeve, sew in place.

Using start of grey yarn as a guide, sew arms to Body

Feet

□ Work as for Bride

Tail

□ Work as for Bride

Ears

□ Work as for Bride

Bib

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on five sts

□ Row 1 and all odd-numbered rows: p

□ Row 2: k2, m1, k1, m1, k2. Seven sts

□ Row 4: k3, m1, k1, m1, k3. Nine sts

□ Row 6: k4, m1, k1, m1, k4. 11 sts

□ Row 8: k4, sl 2, k1, p2sso, k4. Nine sts

□ Cast off

Sew to front of Groom using top of tummy as a guide

Bow tie

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn C, cast on seven sts

□ Rows 1-6: sl 1, (p1, k1) three times

□ Cast off in patt

Bring cast-off/on edges together and wrap yarn around centre to form Bow tie. Straighten out Bow tie and sew to top of Bib

To make up

Sew on Ears, eyes and whiskers following instructions for Bride using grey thread for whiskers **LK**



MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Length: 11cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo, (A) shade 179 Plimptious, (B) shade 148 Coe, (C) shade 158 Rinky Dinky Pink, (D) shade 176 Pixie Green, (E) shade 155 Limey, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm straight included with this issue of LK, 3.25mm double-pointed Floristry wire



ABOUT THE YARN

Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo is an 80% bamboo-sourced viscose yarn, blended with 20% wool. It has a beautiful light sheen and 32 colours to choose from, meaning you're sure to find the perfect shade to match the colour theme.

Need an alternative yarn?

Patons 100% Cotton DK is a mercerised cotton with an incredible sheen, available in a wonderful range of pretty nuptial colours.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo costs £4 per 50g (95m) ball from 01244 389310, www.stashfineyarns.com



Patons 100% Cotton DK costs £4.99 per 100g (210m) ball from 01926 882818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE ACCESSORIES PATTERN

Chimes

is a set of pretty rose buttonholes by Jane Burns

Weddings are a time for everyone to come together and celebrate the love of two people. And one of the best – or sometimes worst – things about then is that everyone wants to get involved! So why not set a team of crafty friends and family to the task of knitting these special handcrafted buttonholes? After all, it's the little details that really make a celebration special. Not only will these flowers make a crafter's wedding unique, but they will last long after the day is over. Plus, you can choose any shade under the sun – so they are guaranteed to match the colourscheme!

START KNITTING HERE

Petal (make four)

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn A, B or C, cast on five sts

NOTE: slip first stitch of each row purlwise to produce a nice neat edge

- Row 1: k
- Row 2 and all even-numbered rows: p
- Row 3: k2, m1, k to last two sts, m1, k2. Seven sts
- Row 5: k2, m1, k to last two sts, m1, k2. Nine sts
- Row 7: k2, m1, k to last two sts, m1, k2. 11 sts
- Row 9: k
- Row 11: k4, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k4. Nine sts
- Row 13: k
- Cast off

Inner petal (make one)

- Work Rows 1-8 of Petal patt
- Row 9: k4, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k4. Nine sts
- Row 10: p
- Row 11: k
- Cast off

Stem

- Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn D or E, cast on six sts
- Row 1: k, slide these six sts to other end of needle, do not turn
- Rep Row 1 pulling yarn tight across back of i-cord each time you start a new row
- Work until i-cord meas 6cm
- Next row: slide six sts to other end of needle, do not turn, kfb into each stitch. 12 sts
- Distribute these 12 sts evenly

over three dpns and join into the rnd

- Rnds 1-4: k
- Cast off

Small leaf

(make three)

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn D or E, cast on five sts

- Row 1: sl 1, k to end
- Row 2: sl 1, p to end
- Row 3: as Row 1
- Row 4: as Row 2
- Row 5: sl 1, k3tog, k1. Three sts
- Row 6: p3tog
- Cut yarn, thread through rem st, pull tight to fasten off

Large leaf (make one)

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn D or E, cast on five sts

- Row 1: k
- Row 2 (and all even-numbered rows): p
- Row 3: k2, m1, k1, m1, k2. Seven sts
- Row 5: k3, m1, k1, m1, k3. Nine sts
- Row 7: k4, m1, k1, m1, k4. 11 sts
- Row 9: k5, m1, k1, m1, k5. 13 sts
- Row 11: k
- Row 13: k5, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k5. 11 sts
- Row 15: k4, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k4. Nine sts
- Row 17: k3, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k3. Seven sts
- Row 19: k2, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k2. Five sts
- Row 21: k1, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k1. Three sts
- Row 22: p3tog
- Cut yarn, thread through rem st, fasten off





"Of course, these pretty flowers can be used for all sorts of different purposes, not just for weddings! Why not put them in a small vase to brighten up your desk or windowsill?"

LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT AMY ADAMS

knitwise

SLIPPERY SLOPE

Selvages are used to create a neat finish at either side of the knitted piece – in this case, the designer has used a slip-stitch edge. This means that the first stitch of each row should be slipped purlwise, before continuing with the pattern as normal. When the previous row's slipped stitch is worked, this creates a chain stitch two rows high. Not only is it neater than a stocking-stitch selvedge, but it also helps to secure the work.

UNIQUE
WEDDING
ACCESSORY



To make up

Weave in ends. Starting with the smaller inner petal, roll from the side edge to form centre, secure with a stitch. Wrap other petals around inner petal in a spiral, sewing in place as you go. Sew smaller leaves to edge of the stem cup with RS facing upwards. Insert rose base into stem 'cup' and sew in place. Cut a length of floristry wire approx 11cm long (long enough to bend the top

and bottom). Insert floristry wire through centre of rose down through stem. Bend the top of wire into a crook shape and pull down through the rose head to secure. Slide knitted stem up and fold bottom of wire to correct length forming a loop. Slide knitted stem over this loop and sew in place using wire loop to secure. Sew on large leaf, using image as a guide **LK**

Make one (m1)



1 Insert the LH needle into the horizontal bar of yarn lying between the stitch just knitted and the next stitch to be knitted. Hook and lift it with the needle tip in a backwards direction (away from you).



2 Push the RH needle into the back part of the loop that now lies over the left needle and knit this stitch. You will now have an additional stitch on the right needle.

knit PICKS

Hot products, ideas and more!

These small size crochet hooks from Clover's Amour range are perfect for fine yarns and lacy projects. RRP £7.05 each. For stockists, email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk



Home sweet home

We adore these cute little jar covers from one of Noro's newest pattern books, *Hooked on Crochet*. The collection features accessories and homewares, all designed by Nicki Trench and crocheted in Noro's vibrant yarns.

For stockists, call 01535 664222

or visit www.designeryarns.uk.com



Animal magic

We love this Noah's Ark pattern from Knitables creator Sarah Gasson. The collection includes full instructions for Noah, his wife, the ark and eight different critters, including elephants, giraffes, the raven and the dove. It costs £5 from www.knitables.com



Making a point

It's not very often we're shown something revolutionary when it comes to knitting needles, but HiyaHiya's new straight interchangeable needles could be just that. You start with your needle tips, which can also be used with HiyaHiya's circular interchangeable needles, and then build the barrel of the needle to the length you require using small segments. For stockists and to find out more, visit www.hiyahiya-uk.com



Reflect your crafty nature with these fun ribbons from Berisfords.

From 70p per metre/reel.

For stockists, email berisfords@stockistenquiries.co.uk



PICK from the LK blog!



Home Energy Scotland, part of the Greener Scotland initiative set up by the Scottish government, is promoting energy saving in the home, with help from an adorable knitted character. Doug the caterpillar is not only cute and colourful, but as a draught excluder, he

can help make your home more efficient. To find out more about the campaign and see how it can make a difference to your home, visit www.homeenergyscotland.org. You can also find the pattern at www.letsknit.co.uk



SIMPLE
TEXTURED
EFFECT

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE GARMENT PATTERN

Sylvia is a
cosy pullover by
Linda Parkhouse
in a sparkly yarn

In a shimmering mint green and soft lemon yellow, this pretty pullover is almost as refreshing as that first ice cream of the year on a sunny afternoon. Knitted in a broken rib with a simple v-neck front, it's ideal for lounging on a lazy weekend, or throwing over an outfit to cover up on a chilly summer evening.

START KNITTING ON P38

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18)

To fit chest (cm):

81 (86, 92, 97, 102, 107)

Actual chest (cm):

93 (99, 104, 110, 115, 121)

Length to back neck (cm):

59 (60, 61, 62, 63, 64)

Sleeve length (cm):

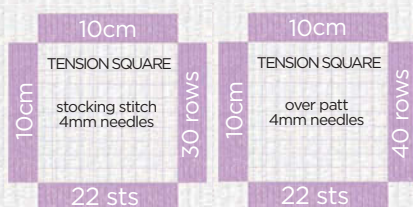
44 (44, 44, 44, 44, 44)

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Sirdar Ella DK (A) shade 7 Peppermint, (B) shade 2 Clementine, 4 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9) 50g balls of each

Needles: 3.25mm – included with this issue of LK, 3.75mm, 4mm

Crochet hook (optional)



ABOUT THE YARN

Sirdar Ella DK is a cotton and acrylic blend yarn in 15 pastel colours, each twisted with a metallic thread to add an extra hint of sparkle.

Need an alternative yarn?

King Cole Baby Glitz DK is a soft acrylic yarn with a sparkly metallic twist. It is fully machine washable, and available in six pastel shades, including (A) 102 Mint and (B) 101 Lemon to match.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Sirdar Ella DK costs £2.62 per 50g (126m) ball from 0845 003 0775, www.wool4less.co.uk

King Cole Baby Glitz DK costs £3.29 per 100g (290m) ball from www.purplelinda.com/crafts.co.uk



START KNITTING HERE

Back

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 105 (111, 117, 123, 129, 135) sts

□ Rows 1-2: k3, [p3, k3] to end Join in yarn B

□ Rows 3-4: k3, [p3, k3] to end These four rows form stripe patt

□ Work without shaping until Back meas 10cm from cast-on edge, ending after an even-numbered (WS) row

Change to 3.75mm needles

□ Work in patt for a further 8cm, ending after a WS row

□ Cont in patt until Back meas 39cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

□ Cast off six sts at beg of next two rows. 93 (99, 105, 111, 117, 123) sts **

□ Cont in patt until armhole meas 18 (19, 20, 21, 22, 23) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE UPPERARMS

□ Cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 9, 10) sts at beg of next four rows and five sts at beg of next four rows

SHAPE SHOULDERS

□ Cast off ten sts at beg of next two rows

□ Cast off rem 33 (35, 37, 39, 41, 43) sts

Front

□ Work for Back to **

FRONT OPENING

□ Next row: patt 46 (49, 52, 55, 58, 61) sts, turn and work on these sts only for first side of neck shaping

NOTE: Keep first edge st at centre front in patt with next three sts – there will be four sts the same at opening edge

□ Work without shaping until armhole meas same as Back to upperarm shaping, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE UPPERARM

□ Cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 9, 10) sts at beg of next and foll RS row, then cast off five sts at beg of two foll alt rows. 26 (27, 28, 29, 30, 31) sts

□ Work one row

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Next row: cast off ten sts, patt to end. 16 (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) sts

□ Work one row

Leave rem sts on a holder

□ With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, work 2tog, patt to end. 46 (49, 52, 55, 58, 61) sts

NOTE: Keep last edge st at centre front in patt with previous three sts – there will be four sts the same at opening edge

□ Work without shaping until armhole meas same as Back to upperarm shaping, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE UPPERARM

□ Cast off 5 (6, 7, 8, 9, 10) sts at beg of next and foll WS row and then cast off five sts at beg of two foll alt rows. 26 (27, 28, 29, 30, 31) sts

□ Work one row

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Next row: cast off ten sts, patt to end. 16 (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) sts

COLLAR

□ Next row: using 4mm needles, patt 16 (17, 18, 19, 20,



knitwise

GREEN SLEEVES: When working your sleeve increases at the beginning and end of the row, you can choose whether to increase using m1 or kfb. There are tutorials for both these stitches on page 49, but it all depends on which technique feels more comfortable to you. While m1 can create a small hole in your fabric, kfb produces a slight ridge in front of each stitch.

Whichever you choose, just make sure that you maintain the [p3, k3] stitch pattern as you increase.

21) sts from right front, cast on 39 (43, 47, 51, 55, 59) sts, patt across 16 (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) sts from left front holder. 71 (77, 83, 89, 95, 101) sts

❑ Keeping patt correct, work a further 12 rows

❑ Cast off in patt

Sleeves

Using 3.25mm needles, and yarn A, cast on 45 (48, 54, 57, 63, 66) sts

FIRST, FOURTH AND FIFTH SIZES ONLY

❑ Rows 1-2: k3, [p3, k3] to end Join in yarn B

❑ Rows 3-4: k3, [p3, k3] to end These four rows form stripe patt

SECOND, THIRD AND SIXTH SIZES ONLY

❑ Row 1: using yarn A, [k3, p3] to end

❑ Row 2: using yarn A, [p3, k3] to end

❑ Row 3: using yarn B, [k3, p3] to end

❑ Row 4: using yarn B, [p3, k3] to end

These four rows form stripe patt

ALL SIZES

❑ Work a further 30 rows in appropriate stripe patt Change to 4mm needles

❑ Work eight rows

❑ Inc and work into patt one st at each end of next and every foll 8th row until there are 75 (78, 84, 87, 93, 96) sts

❑ Work without shaping until Sleeve meas 44cm from cast-on edge, ending after an even-numbered row, pm at each end of last row

❑ Work a further eight rows

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

❑ Cast off six sts at beg of next ten rows. 15 (18, 24, 27, 33, 36) sts

❑ Cast off

To make up

Join shoulder seams and sew cast-on sts of collar to back neck edge, easing to fit. Join side and sleeve seams. Sew sleeves into armholes, easing to fit and match rows above markers to sts cast off at underarms. With RS facing, yarn A and crochet hook, work one row of double crochet along each side of neck and collar edge to neaten row ends (optional) **LK**

Vest top, £3.99, New Look, jeans, £19.99, necklace, £7.99, both H&M

"Cotton is the ideal fibre for warmer months, as it is naturally cool, strong and versatile. Discover more great cotton yarns by turning to page 40!"



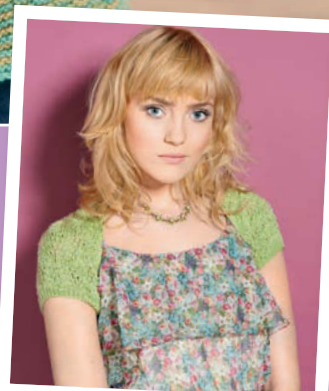
LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
AMY ADAMS



*coming
nextissue*

**PRETTY SHRUG BY KELLY
MENZIES**

June issue of Let's Knit on
sale Friday 9th May



Cotton CANDY

Prepare for summer with these sugar-sweet cotton yarns

Cotton is the classic summer fibre, being naturally cool, crisp, and comfortable to wear. It can come in both mercerised and unmercerised forms, with the former being a chemical treatment which strengthens the fibre and gives it a light sheen. Mercerised or not, its smooth texture, stitch definition and resilience makes cotton ideal for crochet and textured stitches, both of which look beautiful in the sun. This summer, candyfloss colours are all the rage, so why not bring the seaside with you everywhere you go?

1 Cygnet Cottony DK

Available in 12 pastel shades, the 46% cotton, 46% acrylic blend is wonderfully soft to touch. The yarn also features a shiny viscose thread which is loosely plied throughout, creating an unusual textured sheen. One 50g (111m) ball costs £1.79 from **01789 768682**, www.cosywool.co.uk

8 Sirdar Snuggly Baby Speckle

The Sirdar Snuggly range is well known for featuring some of the nation's favourite baby yarns. This 60% cotton, 40% acrylic blend is just as soft as you would expect, and we adore the flecked colour effect, which creates a soft mottled pattern in 11 different shades. One 50g (135m) ball costs £3.95 from **0845 576 0007**, www.loveknitting.com

For 10% off all orders from Loveknitting.com, turn to p6.

2 Bergere de France Coton Fifty

Comprising 50% cotton and 50% acrylic, this 4ply yarn works particularly well for crochet projects or lacy summer knits. It comes in a range of 20 fruity colours which really shine in the sunny weather. One 50g (140m) ball costs £3.02 from **01273 508768**, www.cocoonknits.co.uk

7 Wendy Supreme 100% Luxury Cotton Chunky

The Wendy Supreme range includes 4ply, DK and Chunky weight yarns, all of which are available in pretty spring-time colours. The mercerised cotton has a soft sheen, while the strong twist creates beautifully textured stitches. The chunky yarn will be ideal for big beach accessories! One 100g (83m) ball costs £4.19 from **0800 488 0708**, www.deramores.com For 10% off all orders from Deramores, turn to p25.

3 James C. Brett Cotton On DK

A soft 50/50 acrylic and cotton blend, Cotton On DK comes in 20 solid and variegated shades, predominantly light summery pastels. The high twist gives it a fantastic stitch definition, and it is even machine washable – perfect for kids! One 50g (145m) ball costs £1.95 from www.knittyknittybangbang.co.uk

4 Katia Cotton Stretch

Knitting to roughly a DK tension, this 87% cotton, 13% polyester blend is great for summer garments, and – as the name suggests – has a lovely stretch which makes it ideal for fitted tops and dresses. Choose from 20 bright summer shades. One 50g (170m) ball costs £3.50. Go to www.katia.com for stockists.

5 Stylecraft Classique Cotton DK

This simple, stylish yarn comes in 16 solid shades, using 100% unmercerised cotton. It is machine washable at 40°C, and can even be tumble dried! Make sure you check out the accompanying patterns for women and children. One 100g (184m) ball costs £3.78 from 01926 882818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

6 Rico Design Creative Cotton Print Aran

Brand new for spring/summer 2014, this 100% cotton yarn features variegated colourways in a range of candyfloss shades – naturally, we love it! The self-stripping effect is truly eye-catching, and produces different looks depending on the size of the project. It's definitely one worth experimenting with! One 50g (85m) ball costs £1.99 from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

8-10 (12-14, 16-18, 20-22)

To fit chest (cm):

81-86 (91-97, 102-107, 112-117)

Actual chest (cm):

90 (100, 111, 120)

Back length (cm):

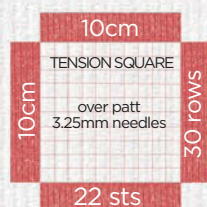
54 (54, 60.5, 60.5)

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Louisa Harding Jesse, shade 101 Tango, 8 (9, 10, 11) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm straight - included with this issue of LK, 3.25mm double-pointed, 3.25mm (60cm) circular

Tapestry needle



ABOUT THE YARN

Louisa Harding Jesse is 100% cotton aran weight yarn with lots of stitch definition. It has a faint distressed look and is soft and comfortable to wear. It comes in a wide range of colours ideal for summer garments.

Need an alternative yarn?

To knit Lyndsey in a DK weight (see knitwise), try **Debbie Bliss Cotton DK**. Machine washable and 100% cotton, it is slightly thicker than standard DK knitting yarns. Shade 071 (Burnt Orange) is a good match for Lyndsey.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Louisa Harding Jesse costs £4.50 per 50g (89m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com

Debbie Bliss Cotton DK costs £3.95 per 50g (84m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

For 10% off all orders at Deramores, turn to page 25



LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE GARMENT PATTERN

Lyndsey is a stunning ivy-patterned top by Kelly Menzies

Lyndsey is a beautifully bright spring top with a simple but flattering shape. The all-over ivy design is stylish and effective and will soon make Lyndsey a wardrobe favourite. The warmer months are the ideal time to perfect your lace knitting skills, and with an aran-weight yarn and almost no shaping involved, this pretty shirt is a great place to start. Team it with some comfy jeans and chunky jewellery for a casual look or dress it up with a bit of sparkle for a more elegant occasion.

START KNITTING HERE

Back

Using 3.25mm straight needles, cast on 102 (113, 124, 135) sts

□ Work in [k1, p1] rib for 2cm

□ Next row (WS): p

Work lace pattern as follows:

□ Row 1 (RS): k2, * k2tog, k4, [yfwd, k1] twice, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 2 and all other even-numbered rows: p

□ Row 3: k2, * k2tog, k3, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2, ssk, k1, rep from

* to last st, k1

□ Row 5: k2, * k2tog, k2, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k3, ssk, k1, rep from

* to last st, k1

□ Row 7: k2, * k2tog, [k1, yfwd] twice, k4, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 9: k2, * k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k5, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 11: k2, * k2tog, [k1, yfwd] twice, k4, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 13: k2, * k2tog, k2, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k3, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 15: k2, * k2tog, k3, yfwd, k1, yfwd, k2, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 17: k2, * k2tog, k4, [yfwd, k1] twice, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 19: k2, * k2tog, k5, yfwd, k1, yfwd, ssk, k1, rep from * to last st, k1

□ Row 20: p

□ Rep Rows 1-20 until piece meas approx 54 (54, 60.5, 60.5) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a Row 20

□ Cast off

Front

Work as for Back

To make up

Weave in loose ends. Using method of choice, sew up side seams for 32.5 (32.5, 37.5, 37) cm, leaving 21.5 (21.5, 23, 23.5) cm open for armhole. Sew across top of each shoulder for 5 (7, 8, 9) cm, leaving neck open for approx 35 (36, 39.5, 41.5) cm

knitwise

CHANGING WEIGHT: To complete the pattern with DK yarn, use a 4mm needle instead of 3.25mm for all sections. The tension is 22 sts and 28 rows in pattern stitch on 4mm needles, so the only difference is the row gauge. All other parts of the pattern remain the same except when completing the front and back. The end row would read: Repeat Rows 1-20 until work measures approx 54 (54, 60.5, 60.5) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a Row 10.



Neck rib

Using 3.25mm circular needle,
pick up and k 130 (142, 148, 154)
sts around neck edge

- ❑ Work in [k1, p1] rib for 1.5cm
- ❑ Cast off loosely

Sleeve ribs

Using 3.25mm dpns, pick up
and k 94 (94, 100, 102) sts
around one sleeve edge

- ❑ Work in [k1, p1] rib for 1.5cm
 - ❑ Cast off loosely
 - ❑ Rep for second sleeve
- Block to measurements **LK**

UNIQUE
IVY
PATTERN!

*coming
nextissue*

STYLISH BEACH COVER-UP
BY KELLY MENZIES

June issue of Let's Knit on
sale Friday 9th May



MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

To fit 35cm x 35cm cushion pad

KNIT KIT

Yarn: (A) King Cole Magnum Chunky, shade 364 slate blue, three 100g balls; King Cole Bamboo Cotton, (B) shade 530 white, (C) shade 538 cream, (D) shade 637 saffron, one 100g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm – included with this issue of LK, 5.5mm, 6mm

Buttons: small, black, nine; large, wooden, one

Cushion pad: 35cm x 35cm



ABOUT THE YARN

King Cole Magnum Chunky is a beautifully soft chunky yarn, made from 25% wool and 75% acrylic. **King Cole Bamboo Cotton** is made from all natural fibres – using 50% bamboo viscose and 50% cotton and has great stitch definition.

Need an alternative yarn?

Stylecraft Life Chunky is 25% wool and 75% acrylic. We recommend shade 2322 Denim as a match for this cushion but it is available in a range of bold and exciting colours. **Rico Essentials Cotton DK** is 100% mercerised cotton. The mercerisation process gives the cotton a lustrous sheen, making this a lovely fine yarn with excellent stitch definition.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



King Cole Magnum Chunky costs £3.79 per 100g (110m) ball, **King Cole Bamboo Cotton** costs £4.75 per 100g (230m) ball from **0800 488 0708**, www.deramores.com
For 10% off all orders at **Deramores**, turn to page 25

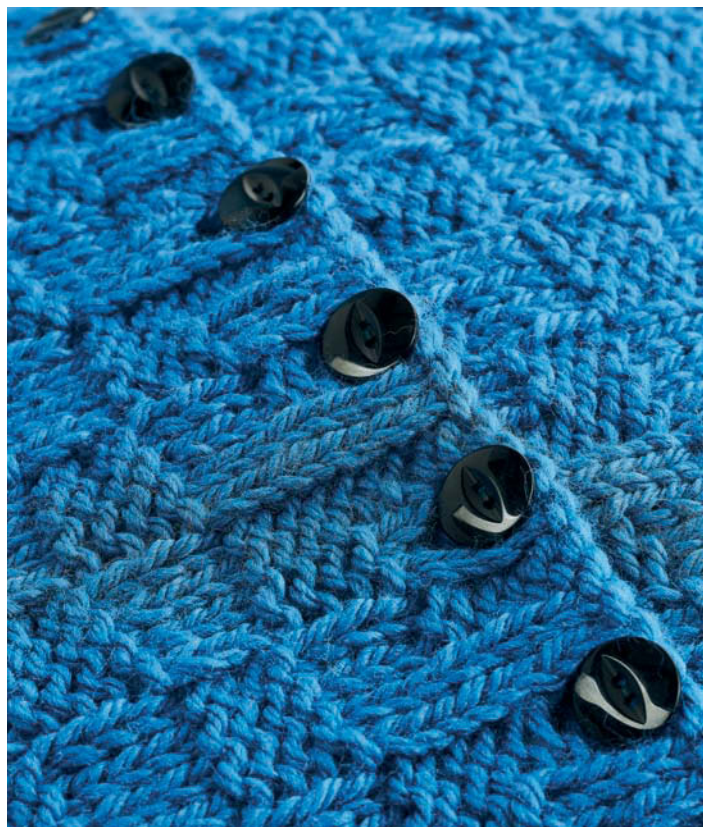
Stylecraft Life Chunky costs £2.99 per 100g (148m) ball from **01926 882818**, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Rico Essentials Cotton DK costs £2.59 per 50g (130m) ball from **01925 764231**, www.blacksheepwools.com

LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE HOMEWARES PATTERN

Fleur is a summery scatter cushion by Helen Ardley

Now that summer is on its way, flowers are blooming everywhere. Floral cushions and other cheery homewares are a great way to brighten up your home and bring the sunshine inside! Fleur's simple petal design could be knitted in a colour that coordinates with your furniture. Alternatively, why not use a number of bright colours for the petals to create a unique and eye-catching flower, using up odds and ends from your stash at the same time?



yarn B or C, cast on three sts
☐ Row 1 and all odd-numbered rows: p
☐ Row 2: k1, m1, k1, m1, k1. Five sts
☐ Row 4: k2, m1, k1, m1, k2. Seven sts
☐ Row 6: k3, m1, k1, m1, k3. Nine sts
☐ Cont to inc as set until there are 13 sts
☐ Beg with a p row, work five rows in st st
☐ Next row: sl 1, k1, psso, k to last two sts, k2tog. 11 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: sl 1, k1, psso, k to last two sts, k2tog. Nine sts
☐ Cont to dec as set until three sts rem
☐ Next row: sl 1, k2tog, psso
 Cut yarn, thread tail through rem st and pull tight to secure

Large petals (make 13)

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn D, cast on three sts
☐ Work as Small petal until there are 15 sts
☐ Beg with a p row, work five rows in st st
☐ Work dec rows as with Small petal
 Cut yarn, thread tail through rem st and pull tight to secure

To make up

Sew in all loose ends. Pin petal designs to Front and when you are happy with the flower shape secure down (see Knitwise). Sew large button to middle of flower. Placing wrong sides together and using mattress stitch, sew around all four sides of cushion, making sure you place buttonhole band over the top of buttonband. Sew nine buttons to buttonband **LK**

START KNITTING HERE

Front

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on 56 sts

- ☐ Rows 1-4: * k4, p4, rep from * to end
- ☐ Rows 5-8: * p4, k4, rep from * to end
- ☐ Rep rows 1-8 until piece meas 40cm
- ☐ Cast off

Back

PART ONE

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on 56 sts

- ☐ Work as Front until piece meas 19cm from cast-on edge
- Change to 5.5mm needles
- ☐ Next row: * k2, p2, rep from * to end

- ☐ Rep last row five more times
- ☐ Cast off

PART TWO

Using 6mm needles and yarn A, cast on 56 sts

- ☐ Work as Front until piece meas 19cm from cast-on edge
- Change to 5.5mm needles
- ☐ Next row: * k2, p2, rep from * to end
- This row sets rib
- ☐ Rep last row
- ☐ Next row (buttonhole row): rib three, yrn, k2tog, * rib four, yrn, k2tog, rep from * to last three sts, rib to end
- ☐ Work three more rows in rib
- ☐ Cast off

Small petals (make five in yarn B and 13 in yarn C)
 Using 3.25mm needles and



**SIMPLE
FLORAL
DESIGN!**

knitwise

SEW SIMPLE: When attaching the petals to the front of the cushion, simply use a tapestry needle to sew a running stitch through the petals' selvedge stitches, being sure to insert the needle directly through the centre of each stitch. Make sure to lay the cushion flat whilst doing this so that the stitching does not affect the overall shape.

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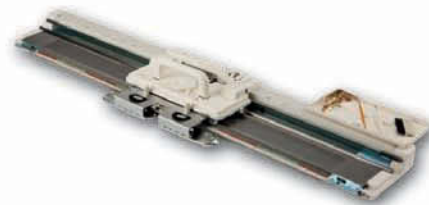
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Part Four: Shaping

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KNIT INTO FRONT AND BACK OF STITCH (KFB)

This is one of the most commonly used methods of adding a stitch. It is worked into the stitch. It does leave a horizontal strand on the right side (RS) of the work, but in garter stitch this is almost invisible.

Step 1: k into the first stitch on the left-hand (LH) needle, but do not slip it off the needle



Step 2: move the right-hand (RH) needle around and knit into the back loop of the same stitch



Step 3: drop the stitch from the LH needle



KNIT TWO TOGETHER (K2TOG)

This method is used to decrease two knit stitches into one.



Step 1: insert the RH needle into the next two stitches at the same time



Step 2: wrap the yarn around the needle and pull through both loops



The finished decrease leans to the right on a knit row



LK Deputy Editor Adrienne Chandler demonstrates simple increasing and decreasing techniques

MAKE ONE (M1)

ALSO KNOWN AS 'MAKE ONE LEFT' (M1L)

This increase method is worked between the stitches and is ideal for stocking stitch fabrics.

Step 1: insert the LH needle into horizontal bar between the last stitch on the RH needle and first stitch on the LH needle from front to back



Step 2: knit into the back of this loop



The finished stitch leans to the left



NOTE: remember to work into the back of the loop or you will get a hole. You can also work 'make one purlwise' by purling into the back of the loop

MAKE ONE RIGHT (M1R)

This increase is worked in a similar way to 'make one left'

Step 1: insert LH needle into the horizontal bar between the last stitch on the RH needle and first stitch on the LH needle from back to front



Step 2: knit into the front of this loop



The finished stitch leans to the right



SLIP ONE, KNIT TWO TOGETHER, PASS SLIPPED STITCH OVER (SL 1, K2TOG, PSSO)

Sometimes called the 'central double decrease', this technique decreases two stitches and does not lean in any particular direction



Continued over the page...

PURL TWO TOGETHER (P2TOG)

Sometimes you will be instructed to decrease on a purl row. It is important to use the stitch that leans the correct way when it is viewed from the right side of the work

Step 1: insert needle into next two stitches as if to purl



Step 2: wrap the yarn around the needle and pull through both loops



This decrease leans to the right on the RS of the work



PURL TWO TOGETHER THROUGH THE BACK LOOPS (P2TOG TBL)

This decrease uses a similar principle to p2tog

Step 1: move the needle around to the back of the work and insert it through the second stitch on the LH needle and into the first stitch



Step 2: wrap the yarn around the needle and purl through both loops



This decrease leans to the left on the RS of the work



SLIP, SLIP, KNIT (SSK)

This technique also decreases two knit stitches into one.

Step 1: insert the RH needle into the next stitch on the LH needle as if to knit and transfer the stitch to the RH needle, do the same with the second stitch – it is important to slip the stitches one at a time



Step 2: return sts to LH needle



Step 3: insert the RH needle through the back loop of these two stitches, wrap the yarn around the needle and pull through both loops



The finished decrease leans to the left on a knit row



SHORT-ROW SHAPING

This method creates a gradual curve. It can also be used to work a heel on a sock.

WRAP AND TURN (W&T):

Step 1: bring the yarn to the opposite side of the work between the needles



Step 2: insert the RH needle into the next stitch as if to purl and transfer it to the RH needle, then move the yarn to its original position



Step 3: return the slipped stitch to the LH needle



Step 4: turn the work and continue in the other direction



You have now wrapped a stitch



WORKING WRAPS TOGETHER WITH STITCHES – ON A KNIT ROW

How to do it: insert the RH needle up through the wrap and into the stitch, then knit the wrap together with the stitch



WORKING WRAPS TOGETHER WITH STITCHES – ON A PURL ROW

Step 1: slip the wrapped stitch from the LH to RH needle



Step 2: insert the LH needle into the wrap



Step 3: return the slipped stitch to the LH needle and purl two together (as shown left)



When you have finished, one section will have more rows than the others. By knitting the wraps together with the stitches, it makes them invisible and creates smoother shaping.



Knit School is sponsored by

HiyaHiya needles, which has a wide range of double-pointed, circular and interchangeable needles, available in stainless steel or bamboo varieties. The needles used in this tutorial were HiyaHiya's new steel interchangeable straight needles. Read more about them on page 40. There is also a wide selection of knitting accessories available. Visit www.hiyahiya-uk.com/retailers for stockists and further information.



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MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

To fit average adult female head
Headband (excluding ties):

45cm x 9cm

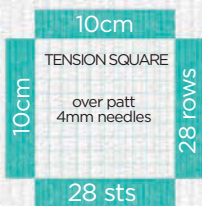
Ties: 27cm each

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Rowan
Silkystones,
shade 83
Grassland, one
50g ball

Needles: 4mm,
straight, 4mm,
double-pointed

Cable needle



ABOUT THE YARN

Rowan Silkystones is a melange of 52% tussah silk and 48% linen. Each shade is a subtle blend of tones, giving it the light silken sheen of wet stones. We recommend washing your headband by hand.

Need an alternative yarn?

Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK uses a blend of bamboo and wool to create a gentle yarn with the breathable qualities of natural fibres. If you use this yarn for Barmouth, make sure you make a tension square first to see the effect it will give.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

p2tog tbl: purl two stitches together through the back of the loop

m1l: make one st by picking up the thread before the next st from front to back, and k tbl

m1r: make one st by picking up the thread before the next st from back to front, and knit

m1lp: make one st by picking up the thread before the next st from front to back, and purl this stitch through the back of the loop

m1rp: make one st by picking up the thread before the next st from back to front, and purl

C2B: knit the next two stitches together, but do not take off LH needle, knit into the first stitch again

C4Fp: slip next 2 sts to cable needle and hold at front of work, p2, k2 from cable needle

C4Bp: slip next 2 sts to cable needle and hold at back of work, k2, p2 from cable needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Rowan
Silkystones costs
£8.26 per 50g
(100m) from
www.englishyarns.co.uk

Sirdar Snuggly Baby
Bamboo DK costs
£3.85 per 50g
(95m) from
0845 576 0007,
www.loveknitting.com



START KNITTING HERE

Headband

NOTE: To make a longer or shorter headband, just work more or fewer pattern repeats when directed

Using 4mm dpns, cast on three sts

□ Work first tie in i-cord (see knitwise) until work meas 27cm. Do not turn work

□ Working flat and turning at end of each row, starting with a k row, work two rows in st st

HEADBAND INCREASE (shown in Increase chart)

□ Row 1 (RS, inc): k1, m1r, p1, m1l, sl 1 pwise wyib. Five sts

□ Row 2 (WS): p2, k1, p1, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 3: k2, m1r, p1, m1l, k1, sl 1 pwise wyib. Seven sts

□ Row 4: p3, k1, p2, sl 1 pwise p wyif

□ Row 5: k3, m1rp, p1, m1lp, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. Nine sts

□ Row 6: p3, k3, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 7: k3, p1, m1rp, p1, m1lp, p1, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 11 sts

□ Row 8: p3, k5, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 9: k3, p2, m1r, p1, m1l, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 13 sts

□ Row 10: p3, k1, (k1, p1) twice, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 11: k3, p2, k1, m1r, p1, m1l, k1, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 15 sts

□ Row 12: p3, k2, p2, k1, p2, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 13: k3, p2, k2, m1rp, p1, m1lp, k2, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 17 sts

□ Row 14: p1, (p2, k2) twice, k1, p2, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 15: k3, p2, k2, p1, m1rp, p1, m1lp, p1, k2, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 19 sts

□ Row 16: p3, k2, p2, k5, p2, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 17: k1, (k2, p2) twice,

m1r, p1, m1l, (p2, k2) twice, sl 1 pwise wyib. 21 sts

□ Row 18: p1, (p2, k2) twice, p1, k1, p1, (k2, p2) twice, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 19: k1, (k2, p2) twice, k1, m1r, p1, m1l, k1, (p2, k2) twice, sl 1 pwise wyib. 23 sts

□ Row 20: p1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 21: p1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 22: p1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

HEADBAND MAIN (shown in Main pattern chart)

□ Row 1 (RS, inc): k1, yfwd, ssk, (p2, yon, ssk) twice, p1, k2, p2, m1rp, C2B, m1lp, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 25 sts

□ Row 2: p3, k3, p2, k3, p2, k1, (p2, k2) twice, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 3: k1, (k2tog, yrn, p2) twice, k2tog, yrn, p1, k2, p3, C2B, p3, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib

□ Row 4: as Row 2

□ Row 5: k1, yfwd, ssk, (p2, yrn, ssk) twice, p1, C4Fp, p1, C2B, p1, C4Bp, sl 1 pwise wyib

□ Row 6: p1, k2, (p2, k1) three times, k2, (p2, k2) twice, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 7: k1, (k2tog, yrn, p2) twice, k2tog, yrn, p3, k2, p1, C2B, p1, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyib

□ Row 8: as Row 7

□ Row 9: k1, yfwd, ssk, (p2, yon, ssk) twice, p1, C4Bp, p1, C2B, p1, C4Fp, sl 1 pwise wyib

Rows 2-9 form patt rep (marked in red on the Main pattern chart)

□ Work a further nine patt reps as set. (If making a longer or shorter headband, add or subtract patt reps here)

□ Row 10: as Row 2

□ Row 11: as Row 3

□ Row 12: as Row 2

□ Row 13: as Row 3

□ Row 14: as Row 2

□ Row 15: as Row 3

□ Row 16: as Row 2

□ Row 17: as Row 3

□ Row 18: as Row 2

□ Row 19: as Row 3

□ Row 20: as Row 2

□ Row 21: as Row 3

□ Row 22: as Row 2

□ Row 23: as Row 3

□ Row 24: as Row 2

□ Row 25: as Row 3

□ Row 26: as Row 2

□ Row 27: as Row 3

□ Row 28: as Row 2

□ Row 29: as Row 3

□ Row 30: as Row 2

□ Row 31: as Row 3

□ Row 32: as Row 2

□ Row 33: as Row 3

□ Row 34: as Row 2

□ Row 35: as Row 3

□ Row 36: as Row 2

□ Row 37: as Row 3

□ Row 38: as Row 2

□ Row 39: as Row 3

□ Row 40: as Row 2

□ Row 41: as Row 3

□ Row 42: as Row 2

□ Row 43: as Row 3

□ Row 44: as Row 2

□ Row 45: as Row 3

□ Row 46: as Row 2

□ Row 47: as Row 3

□ Row 48: as Row 2

□ Row 49: as Row 3

□ Row 50: as Row 2

□ Row 8: p1, (p2, k2) twice, k1, p2, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 9: k3, p2, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 15 sts

□ Row 10: p3, k2, p2, k1, p2, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 11: k3, p2, ssk, p1, k2tog, p2, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 13 sts

□ Row 12: p3, k1, (k1, p1) twice, k2, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 13: k3, p1, p2tog tbl, p1, p2tog, p1, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. 11 sts

□ Row 14: p3, k5, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 15: k3, p2tog tbl, p1, p2tog, k2, sl 1 pwise wyib. Nine sts

□ Row 16: p3, k3, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 17: k2, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, sl 1 pwise wyib. Seven sts

□ Row 18: p3, k1, p2, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 19: k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, sl 1 pwise wyib. Five sts

□ Row 20: p2, k1, p1, sl 1 pwise wyif

□ Row 21: ssk, p1, k2tog. Three sts

□ Beg with a p row, work two rows in st st

□ Work tie in i-cord (see Knitwise) until meas 27cm to match first tie. Cut yarn, thread through rem sts, pull tight to fasten off. Weave in all ends **LK**

KEY

□ Pattern repeat

□ RS: knit
WS: purl

■ grey no stitch

• RS: purl
WS: knit

✓ RS: s1p wyib
WS: s1p wyif

↗ m1R

↘ m1L

↗ m1Rp

↘ m1Lp

○ yfwd / yrn / yon

↗ k2tog

↘ ssk

↗ p2tog

↗ p2tog tbl

↗ C2B

↗ C4Fp

↗ C4Bp

knitwise

MAKING AN I-CORD The i-cord for the ties is worked over three stitches, using two double-pointed needles.

Start by knitting three stitches and then, * without turning, slide the stitches to the other end of the needle. Pull the yarn tight across the back of the work and knit three stitches. Repeat from * until the i-cord is the length you require.

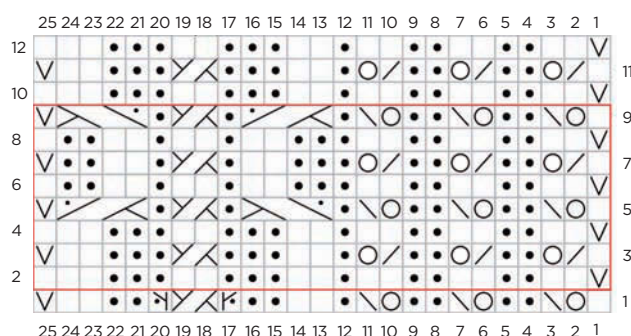


"This headband is great for keeping your hair in check, just what you need for a blustery day on a Welsh beach!"

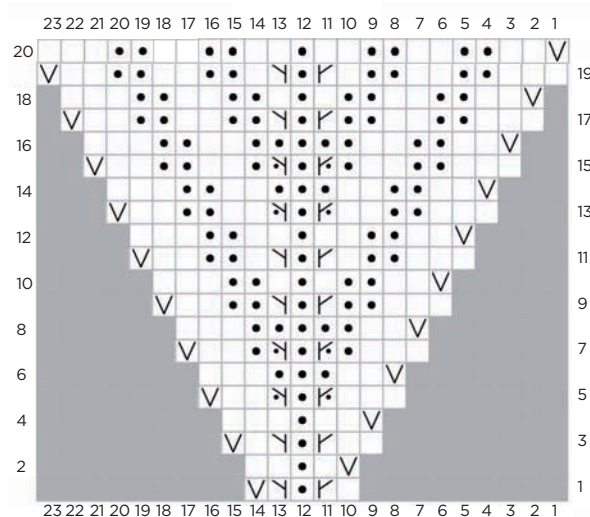
LK DESIGNER
CHARLOTTE WALFORD



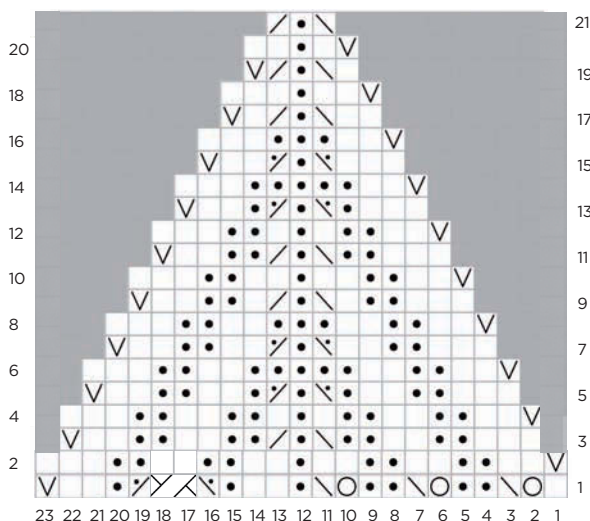
MAIN PATTERN



INCREASE CHART



DECREASE CHART



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A LIFE OF *bliss*

Amy Adams catches up with the queen of UK knitting, **Debbie Bliss**

Debbie Bliss is a force to be reckoned with. After spending more than 30 years making a name for herself in the knitting industry, she has now written over 50 books and pattern collections, with her own range of popular self-branded yarns available to buy. Within the last month, she has launched her own range of stylish homewares, inspired by knitting stitches. Phew!

"I have been a designer since I left art college, where I studied Fashion and Textiles," she says. "I have always worked within publishing rather than ready-to-wear. Then about 15 years ago I was given the opportunity to bring out my own range by Designer Yarns. It seemed the natural progression from designing the knits, and it was exciting to be able to work with yarns that I had chosen. I am licensed to Designer Yarns, which means that I keep control over designs, yarns, and the look and feel of the photography. That's such an important part of keeping the brand's integrity."

Despite her current success, she still remembers the early days of her knitting career, when things weren't always so smooth. "My first commissioned project was for a collect-and-keep magazine series called Golden Hands. After I had delivered it, it was returned to me with a note saying that it had

been rejected. I still have it!"

Now, however, Debbie is one of the most recognisable names in UK knitting, and is famous for her elegant but accessible designs. "I like to be aware of the coming season's trends but not driven by them," she says. "I want to design knits that have a contemporary feel whilst staying true to the craft of knitting. I am also very aware of creating designs that are flattering to

women's bodies, and childrenswear that is practical as well as stylish."

This marriage of practicality and style is perfectly demonstrated by the two new yarns released for the spring/summer season. First up is

Juliet, a cotton and acrylic summer tweed yarn, which produces a beautiful light fabric in simple summery colours.

"I wanted knits that were chic and elegant," says Debbie of her designs for Juliet. "I had in my mind a slightly 1960s feel, with a bit of tailoring. As you don't get much stitch detail in the fabric, I was able to concentrate on clean lines and drape."

In contrast, Mia is a sumptuous cotton and wool blend with an incredible stitch definition. "This drew me to work with cables and patterning, but also to design casual, relaxed knits. It felt right to design the collection with family and friends in mind,

hence the designs are for men, women and children."

The best of both worlds

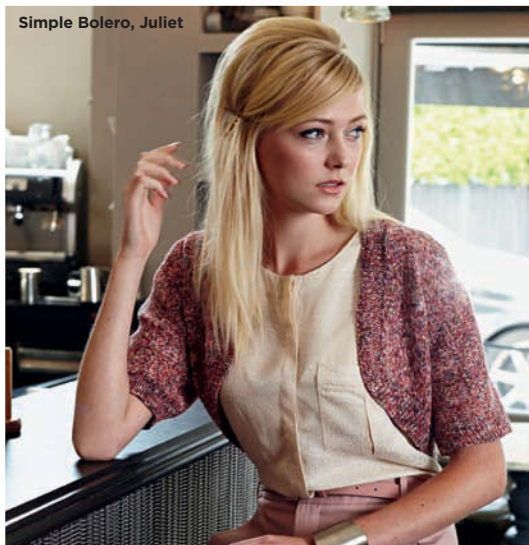
Of course, no one gets to Debbie's position without tireless effort. "I find it difficult to stop working," she admits. "I have lots of deadlines with my distributors and publisher, and I don't want to let people down. It is important that the design collections arrive in the stores at the same time as the yarns, and that the published books are on schedule."

"I want to design knits that have a contemporary feel whilst staying true to the craft"

On top of all that, she still has time to support several different charities. "As a mother I find it appalling that children still live in terrible conditions, such as poverty and war-torn countries," she says. Her charity work includes designs for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day campaign, as well as supporting the Medaille Trust, which helps victims of trafficking, and a local food bank charity called Eat or Heat.

After establishing her own successful business, does she think that it is important for women to get out there and make a name for themselves? "I think it is very





Simple Bolero, Juliet



Fair Isle Cardigan, Baby Cashmerino 5



Deep V Top, Party Perfect



Frilled Edge Top, Juliet

important," she says. "I have been lucky enough to nearly always work with women on magazines, at publishers, with knitters and store owners. Back in the 1980s I worked in PR within the yarn business and found it very chauvinistic, but luckily this has changed enormously! I also work with my daughter Nell and my assistant Teresa. They are both in their early twenties and see no reason why being women should hold them back in any way."

This friendly and welcoming attitude to her work has created a relaxed environment which seems to have been key to the success of the business. "I love working with family and friends. I have the best of both worlds: I work in a studio at home with Nell and Teresa where we brainstorm ideas, but I also work closely with Designer Yarns. I don't believe a very hierarchical structure works for us; we all have valued opinions and the tea maker is the one nearest the kettle. And I love the combination of working from home and then flying out to shows in New York and Florence!"

A new direction

But despite all this, Debbie is still not content to stay settled for long. Her love of the knitted stitch has now taken her brand beyond the craft itself with the launch of her new Home collection, a series

of tea towels, mugs and tote bags with stylised knitting designs.

"We all have valued opinions and the tea maker is the one nearest the kettle"

"I had the idea about eight years ago," she says, "but I didn't get enough interest to make me feel confident about launching it. Then last year I felt the time was right. I worked with Sharlyne Slassi, who designs my booklets and ball bands, and we collaborated together on the concept."

The products launched in the first week of April, and are available from her website. She describes the project as scary, but exciting. "As a designer I have always been interested in what we wear, and how we decorate our homes. I love products that are pleasing to the eye but also practical. It has been fascinating to think about what the best shape of mug is, or answer

questions like should the text on a craft apron be upside down so you can check on knitting abbreviations while you work? I am really looking forward to finding out which products are popular

with customers."

So is this departure from knitting a sign of things to come? "I would like to expand the

homewares collection into more baby and childrenswear," she admits. "I would also like to feature other designers whose work I admire."

Still, her heart remains with knitting, and she looks forward to the positive changes which are still taking place across the industry.

"I think that the range of yarns and colour palettes is wonderful now, which has stimulated the interest of new knitters. The yarn shops are run by very savvy people, who treat the customer with respect, arrange workshops and sell great yarns. In the past I remember going into my local wool shops and feeling in the way! And in general I think that the major companies are run by people who are excited about the possibilities that handknitting offers. I think we're going to continue to see more exciting new designers and yarns."

No matter what the future holds, we can be sure of one thing – there are still great things to come from Debbie Bliss.

To see the full range of Debbie's yarns, patterns, and the brand new Home collection, go to www.debbieblissonline.com



Love Debbie's patterns and yarns? Take out a subscription to Let's Knit and you'll receive 2 hanks of Debbie Bliss yarn plus a pattern booklet FREE. Turn to page 86 for details.

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LET'S KNIT GARMENT PATTERN

Penelope is a *flattering* cross-over top by *Debbie Bliss*

This pretty purple sweater with cross-over front and three-quarter length sleeves is an elegant and flattering garment that will become a wardrobe staple. It does have an unusual construction though, so read our Knitwise and look at the schematics before you begin.

START KNITTING ON P58

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

8-10 (12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26)

To fit chest (cm):

81-86 (92-97, 102-107, 112-117, 122-127)

Actual chest (cm):

86 (97, 107, 117, 127)

Length to shoulder (cm):

54 (57, 60, 63, 66)

Sleeve length (cm):

29 (29, 29, 29, 29)

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply, shade 21 Mauve, 7 (8, 9, 10, 11) 50g balls

Needles: 3mm circular, 3.25mm straight – included with this issue of LK



ABOUT THE YARN

Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply is a soft 100% wool yarn that is easy to knit with. It comes in 24 pretty shades and can be machine washed.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply costs £4.95 per 50g (180m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com



"In this pattern there is lots of shaping that needs to be worked simultaneously, so you may want to write each row out in full to help you keep track"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR
ADRIENNE CHANDLER

START KNITTING HERE

Back

Using 3.25mm needles, cast on 93 (101, 109, 117, 125) sts

□ Foundation row (RS): k1, [p1, k1] twice, k to end

□ Row 1: p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Row 2: [k1, p1] twice, k2tog, [k3, p1] to last three sts, k3

□ Row 3: p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Row 4: [k1, p1] twice, k2tog, k to end

□ Row 5: p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Row 6: [k1, p1] twice, k2tog, [k3, p1] to last st, k1

□ Row 7: p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Row 8: [k1, p1] twice, k2tog, k to end

These eight rows set position of moss st front edging and Birds eye spot patt

□ Cont in patt as set, dec one st between edging and body as set on Row 2 on every foll RS row 49 (54, 59, 64, 69) times, then on every foll fourth row 17 times **AT THE SAME TIME** inc one st at side edge on 11th (13th, 15th, 17th, 19th) row from beg and 8 (9, 10, 11, 12) foll eighth rows

□ Keeping side edge straight, cont to dec at front edge as set and work 14 rows more in patt, ending after a WS row

SHAPE UNDERARM

□ Next row (RS): patt as set to last two sts, kfb, k1

□ Next row: pfb, p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Cont to inc one st at underarm edge on next 16 rows

□ Work one row without underarm shaping

SHAPE SLEEVE

□ Next row (WS): cast on eight sts, p to last five sts, [k1, p1] twice, k1

□ Patt one row

□ Rep last two rows seven times more

□ Next row: patt to last five sts, k1, [p1, k1] twice

□ Keeping five sts in moss st at each end of every row and sleeve edge straight, cont to work decs at front edge until all decs have been worked, ending after a RS row. 118 (122, 126, 130, 134) sts

□ Patt 7 (11, 11, 15, 15) rows without shaping

Pm at each end of the 4th (6th, 6th, 8th, 8th) of these rows to indicate shoulder

□ Next row (RS): [k1, p1] k1, m1, patt to last five sts, k1, [p1, k1] twice

□ Cont in patt inc one st between front edging and body on every fourth row 18 times, then on every foll RS row 48 (53, 58, 63, 68) times **AT THE SAME TIME** when there are 129 (133, 137, 141, 145) sts, ending after a RS non-inc row, shape sleeve as folls:

SHAPE SLEEVE

□ Cont to inc at front edge as set and cast off eight sts at beg of next row and seven foll WS rows

□ Work two rows without side shaping

□ Dec one st at underarm on next 18 rows

□ Work 14 rows without side shaping

□ Dec one st at side edge on next row and 8 (9, 10, 11, 12) foll eighth rows

□ Keeping side edge straight, cont in patt, working front incs as set until there are 93 (101, 109, 117, 125) sts

□ Work two rows without shaping

□ Cast off

Left half

Work as for Right half

To make up

Assemble two halves as shown in diagram, placing left back over right back and slip stitching along lower edge so total lower back edge measures 38 (42, 46.5, 50.5, 55) cm. Repeat this on the other side, placing right front over left front with lower front edge measuring 38 (42, 46.5, 50.5, 55) cm. Join side, sleeve and underarm seams

Waistband

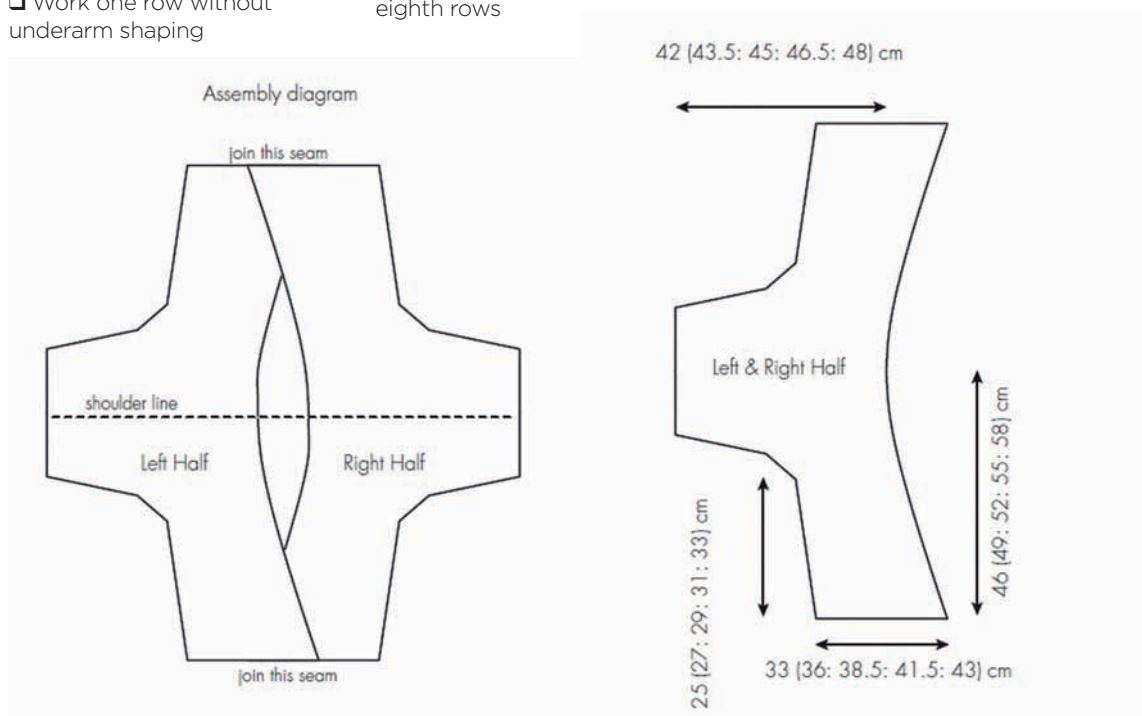
□ Using 3mm circular needle, with RS facing and beg at one side seam, pick up and k 217 (231, 245, 259, 273) sts evenly along lower edge, working through both thicknesses at front and back crossovers Join in the rnd

□ Rnd 1: k1, [p1, k1] to end

□ Rnd 2: p1, [k1, p1] to end

□ Rep Rnd 2 until waistband meas 8cm, ending at same side seam as starting point

□ Cast off in moss st Slip stitch right front to left front at inner edge of moss st band, and left back to right back in same way to secure crossover **LK**





knitwise

SHAPING UP: This pattern is worked in two vertical halves, which overlap at the waistband. The front edge is shaped by decreasing, while the corresponding back edge is shaped with increases. Both are worked together throughout, with the exception of 7 (11, 11, 15, 15) rows at the shoulders. The sleeves are worked as part of the body piece, so need to be shaped at the same time as shaping the front and back edges. Keep referring back to the schematic so you can see how your garment is taking form.

FITTED AND
FLATTERING
SWEATER



TEA Break

Put the kettle on and take a look at what the rest of the LK community have been knitting

Knitters on THE NET

Here's what some of our fabulous online followers have been fashioning:



Star make

My very hungry caterpillar
Kate Nellar



My own design: knitted budgies
Carol Harrison

From time to time I look back at old copies of your magazine for patterns I didn't have the time or yarn for when they came out, hence this hot water bottle cover. **Jacky Thornton**



Upload and win!

Our Star Knit winner has won six balls of Stylecraft's new Stars DK yarn. Next month's winner will receive a gift tin set with a pattern, yarn and needles to make a neck warmer.
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk, www.giftinatina.com



I love knitting these cute owls - such a good way to use up my stash and they make great little gifts for friends. Done six so far! **Lydia Hinton**



My latest project **AllieLou Regan**



@Letsknitmag tweeted

What's your favourite thing to knit in springtime?

You responded:

Cat toys as five of my eight cats' birthdays fall in spring!

@Dodgethecat

This is my first spring as a proper knitter. I might make myself a lightweight 3/4 length sleeve jumper
@pussy_galore_

Currently knitting a lace drapey cardigan. It'll serve me well in balmy #Bordeaux :)

@MmedeBeauvoir

Anything in yellow, orange and violet: all spring colours after a dull winter. I'm crocheting afghans in these colours at the mo
@Knittingqueenuk

Why I ♥ my local yarn shop

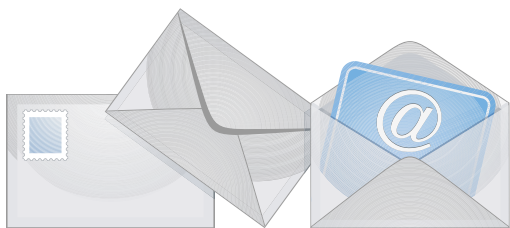
"At Nin's Knitting Emporium there is always a friendly face with a cuppa and biscuits. I can go there and knit all my woes away into a masterpiece. There's always new stock coming in and I have the privilege of being able to help out when it gets busy."

Winnie King via email



Let us know why you love your local yarn shop by emailing

katie.wilding@aceville.co.uk



Read & relax

Get involved!

Send tips and letters to

Let's Knit, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY or email katie.wilding@aceville.co.uk

Write and win!

The writer of this month's star letter has won nine balls of Peter Pan Merino Baby yarn and a collection of baby patterns.



Over to YOU!

Lost in translation

I was travelling in South Africa when I came across a little wool shop in Veldruff in the Western Cape. The owner was wearing a knitted coat to die for. I asked about the pattern and then pounced upon it! It was only later that I realised that the instructions were in Afrikaans. By now I was committed, so with an Afrikaans dictionary, Google translate and a couple of Afrikaans-speaking friends I set about translating. Several months later, here is the result. I'm very pleased with the outcome but will now look twice when buying patterns when on my travels. Although my Afrikaans is now fluent even if I can only speak knitting!

Gillian Jones, Essex

Your story did make us smile, Gillian. We bet reading Afrikaans wasn't a skill you thought you'd pick up whilst knitting!



Kevin's new companion

I've just finished my Kevin from issue 77 and had to tell you about him. My mum and dad recently became foster parents and have already seen their fair share of boys and girls needing emergency care. My family and I are incredibly proud but my two-year-old daughter doesn't like sharing her grandparents! As soon as I picked up Let's Knit I knew I had to make Kevin in her favourite colour as a thank you for being so kind to the other girls and boys. My daughter loves him and insisted he had a hat so they could play outside together! Such a quick and easy pattern too so thanks!

Karen Ormes, West Yorkshire

What a lovely idea, Karen! Kevin is a bundle of fun so we can see why you thought he'd make a great companion for your little one.



A convert to knitting

I bought your magazine last March as a card maker interested in the free flower corsage kit that came with the magazine. I intended to use it on cards and had only ever managed basic stocking stitch. When I made the flower up after some internet tuition, I was completely hooked and have since given up cards to focus on knitting. I have toys, garments and accessories and am now a very avid knitter, which is all down to your brilliant magazine. Many thanks.

Louise Pratley, Oxfordshire

Thank you for your letter, Louise. We're so glad the magazine caught your eye and has kept you busy ever since. We hope it will bring you many more hours of crafting!

Knitting for relaxation

I must write to say thank you for your help in my new project: relaxation. Being the full-time, sole carer for my disabled husband I decided to take up knitting again to help me relax. I thought of toys (despite having no patterns) for the church bazaar and then I saw your free gift of Hatty the elephant. Also in that issue was Gillian the tortoise so after a pair of each, I'm off to a good start. Today I have found Baa-bara the sheep as your free gift and gorgeous Gladys duck to add to the menagerie. The really beautiful Claire cover-up will be something for me, I'm determined. Even if I have to wait until next winter, when our two gardens won't be on my 'to do' list! Finally, seeing the Allotment teacosy, I bet I'm not the only one who sees it as a woolly hat for a keen gardener! Let's Knit will now be my monthly treat - thank you again and keep up the good work.

Karen Blacker via email

It's great that Let's Knit is helping you to relax, Karen. Hatty, Gillian and friends always cheer us up too! Good luck with your next projects and keep enjoying your new monthly treat!



Archie and pals

I thought I would send you a photo of my rabbits. It was very difficult to get them to sit still for a photo as they are very excited. Soon they will be going to Heathrow to board a plane to Uganda. They are going to live with their new family in Tŷ Cariad Children's Home. I'm sure they and the children will be very happy together. Thank you for helping to make this possible. Keep up the good work.

Sian Griffiths via email

Your knitted bunnies look great together, Sian! We love hearing that our readers use patterns from the magazine to contribute towards worthy causes. Keep up the good work!



First robin of spring

I thought you might like to see your English robin with some of his American friends. I used the pattern for Robbie the robin in issue 72 of Let's Knit and adapted it. I really enjoyed knitting them and everyone loves them!

Mary Daniels, Virginia, USA

We're all relieved to see that Robbie made it across the Atlantic safely and has been made welcome on his travels. What a nifty idea to adapt the pattern and make such a varied flock of friends for him!



Tip of the month

If you make a mistake when using a hairy yarn unpicking is made easier by popping your knitting into a plastic bag and putting it into the freezer for an hour. **DOROTHY BROWN**
Printed tips win a £10 voucher to spend online at Black Sheep Wools



NET Natter

News from the forum

Here are a pair of love-birdie wedding cake toppers with buttons for eyes! **Maritrez**



Here it ismy first shawl. Now I need to pluck up the courage to wear it come spring/summer time. **Annie babes**



Sign up to our forum www.homecraftforums.com to find like-minded knitters and crocheters and enter our challenges

NEXT FORUM CHALLENGE: knit something you would see at the beach



Rico shawl
Knit'n'stitch it Sue

Question OF THE MONTH



Last month we asked if you have ever been to a knitting class or workshop and 75% of you said no! Here's what you said:

I haven't been to any. I prefer to teach myself and learn by my own mistakes.

Goose

Yes - I've been to two! The first was a Fair Isle workshop in Oxford where I learnt basic colourwork and how to carry yarn across the back. The second was lace in Wallingford by Anniken Allis. It's great to have an expert show you how to do something - it's not always easy to learn from books.

Knit&Flee

I have never been to a class or workshop. My LYS has a good range of courses to choose from but I have never ventured that far into the shop. I have found that YouTube has a good range of helpful videos.

Bud10

I've never been to a workshop/class. I get such a massive sense of achievement teaching myself. And I really enjoy it too.

Serendipity2

This month we'd like to know if you have ever tried teaching children to knit. Let us know at www.letsknit.co.uk/poll and we'll reveal the statistics next month!



Come and join us on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/letsknitmag



Purls of WISDOM

By Claire Thomas

Finishing Off

I'm decluttering: not a fun prospect, but sadly necessary to create space for the new baby I'm having in a few months' time. With this great joy in my mind, therefore, I am creating a welcoming space by throwing out lots of my husband's things. I thought this was an excellent idea, but he feels that in the spirit of fairness I ought to join in. And so, having thrown away practically all my clothes and as many books as I could stand to lose, I can avoid it no longer. No, I am forced to confront the massive crowd of unfinished projects I have accumulated over the last eight years... or at least since I threw the last lot away.

There are few knitters who haven't, at one time or another, got distracted by something new and shiny halfway through a project that they were beginning to get bored with, and performed a guilty desertion. I, with my short attention span, am more guilty than most. That said, I know knitters who are remarkably good at sorting out their unfinished projects. Every so often, they have a blitz and revisit all those half-knitted sweaters and socks with unturned heels and diligently finish them off in an organised fashion, gaining innumerable karma points in the process. I am impressed, but for myself, I would find this very dispiriting. I wouldn't be doing it for fun. I'd be doing it because I felt I should - like eating Ryvita, or being nice to a friend's bad-mannered boyfriend. And therefore, I would do it in the wrong spirit. Plus, the reason I left all this stuff in the first place was that I didn't want to do it. It's full of all my least favourite parts of knitting. There are sweaters with sleeves to knit, stitches to pick up, endless I-cord to knit. Am I really going to attack all this stuff with renewed vigour now I've had a break? I don't think so.



The thing is, that leaves me back where I started, with a pile of unfinished stuff that I'm contemplating throwing away, which seems an awful, unjustifiable waste. So, in the absence of an organised corps of knitters who will sweep in like paratroopers and finish off all the stuff I don't like doing (and believe me, I await them every day) I have thought of a solution. It's based on the ever popular concept of styling out.

The sweaters, once sewn up, will become tank tops. These aren't unfinished socks waiting for a heel to be turned, they are ankle warmers! I will style out the odd sock look to survivors of the second sock syndrome, or

"These aren't unfinished socks waiting for a heel to be turned, they are ankle warmers!"

turn them into cute phone cosies. Baby cardigans awaiting button bands for people who are now eagerly awaiting the tooth fairy will be finished with the oh so quick crocheted edge and a ribbon tie instead. And anything which is only a few rows long can be unravelling back into a ball. I think this is a great idea. Oh, think of the needles I will reclaim! And I will have got away with not finishing all the stuff I don't want to finish... at least, until the crate is full again in a year's time.

Claire Thomas is a freelance journalist and founder of Stitch 'n' Bitch group Knit Pickers.

TOOLS *of the* TRADE

Needles come in all shapes and sizes – check out this great selection!

1 Bead-topped bamboo needles, from £2.99, www.funkyneedles.co.uk

2 Plastic needles, from £1.50, **07876 550698**, www.knituk.com

3 KnitPro Cubics, £10.61, www.yarnpile.co.uk

4 Rosewood 30.5cm needles, from £5.55, **01367 710362**, www.thelittleknittingcompany.co.uk

5 Addi 35cm aluminium needles, RRP £3.35, for stockists: **01829 740903**, www.laughinghens.com

6 HiyaHiya straight interchangeable needles. For stockists: **01603 788038**, www.hiyahiya-uk.com

7 Gillian Gladrag metal needles, from £2.95, **01306 898144**, www.gilliangladrag.co.uk

8 Chiaogoo stainless steel Knit Red Lace circular needles, £7, **01428 288010**, www.tallyarns.co.uk

9 Chiaogoo 15cm bamboo double-pointed needles, from £4.70, **07506 704616**, www.scarletdash.co.uk





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www.viridianyarn.com



A DAY TO Remember

Shops all over the UK are gearing up for Yarn Shop Day on Saturday 3rd May, and there are so many great reasons for you to join in too!

The bunting is up, the cakes are baking, the shelves have been fully stocked, and excitement is reaching fever pitch! On Saturday 3rd May yarn shops up and down the country will be buzzing with activity, and it's a celebration that no knitter should miss. It's guaranteed to be a fun day, with a chance to learn something new at a free workshop, grab some bargain yarn, meet fellow knitters and designers and eat some delicious cake. However, it's also an opportunity to support our bricks-and-mortar shops, which provide such a valuable service. Says Sharon Newman from Avicraft, "We don't believe that we are there to sell, sell, sell but rather to help others get as much joy and pleasure from their knitting, crochet or stitching as we do. I especially love it when someone brings in a really vintage pattern and I can find just the right yarn for them to make it

(which is how I have ended up with a large stock of 3ply wool, as it's perfect for vintage knits)."

To find out who's involved near you visit www.letsknit.co.uk where you'll find lots of information plus an interactive map of participating stores. In the meantime, want to know what's so great about yarn shops and get a flavour of what's happening on Yarn Shop Day? Read on!

There will be plenty of cake served up in shops around the country on May 3rd!



5 EXCITING YARN SHOP DAY EVENTS

1 Street fair at The Wool Shop, Dalkeith
Owner Vicky says: "The fair will feature various crafts from handmade jewellery to woven baskets to balloon modelling! I hope it will encourage people who wouldn't normally visit a wool shop to come and see what's going on."

2 Eel Festival at Yarn on the Square, Ely
Part of Ely's annual Eel Festival, knitters at Yarn on the Square will be encouraged to help knit an oversized eel! There will also be pop-up shops from Libby Summers and Araucania, as well as knitting and crochet workshops, and an appearance from LK Editor Sarah.

3 Yarnbombing a car at Beaker Button, Weyhill
The Spitfire Knitters are Weyhill's local yarnbombing group, and the creative cohort will be celebrating Yarn Shop Day by covering owner Jennifer's car in knitting! There will also be 10% off everything in store.

4 Puppet show at Dragonswood, New Milton
Not only will Dragonswood be holding raffles and giving away free magazines to the first customers of the day, but there will be a few extra guests in the form of a Billy Fool puppet show! Owner Deanne is part of the local puppeteering group, and is excited to bring the two together on the big day.

5 First birthday party at The Textile Studio, Belfast
This natural fibre emporium has been taking Belfast by storm, and they can't wait to celebrate with tea and cake on Yarn Shop Day! Owner Åsa said: "Hopefully the weather will be as nice as our opening day last year, where the crowds spilled out on the pavement and enjoyed the sunshine! Our customers will also receive a handmade present as a small thanks for a lovely first year."

10 GREAT REASONS TO VISIT A YARN SHOP

Yarn shops are worth a visit any day of the year – not just on 3rd May – and here are some of the best reasons why

1

You can **FEEL THE YARN** before you buy – a crucial part in deciding whether or not you love it!

“Feeling the texture and seeing the colours of the yarns for yourself can make such a difference to what you choose.”

CHARLOTTE WALFORD, **STASH FINE YARNS, CHESTER**

It's far easier to successfully **MIX AND MATCH COLOURS** with the actual yarns in front of you, especially for colourwork and stripes.

3

No idea how that unusual variegated bouclé knits up? A yarn shop gives you the chance to **VIEW SWATCHES AND SAMPLES** for a clearer idea of a yarn's true effect.

4

If you want to **FEEL INSPIRED** then what could be better than being surrounded by the materials of your craft?



“‘Like a kid in a candy store’ is a good description of my feelings when I’m inside a yarn shop.”

SARAH NEAL, **LK EDITOR**

LOOKING BACK: Debbie Bliss, Designer



“I remember the first UK yarn shop I went into that looked modern and bright. It was a shop off Carnaby Street in London, that had white walls and wooden floors. The patterns were beautiful sketches and the yarns were so different from anything else that was around. I have no idea of the shop's name but it opened my eyes to the possibilities of a yarn shop.”



Beaker Button in Weyhill will be celebrating Yarn Shop Day with yarnbombing stunts by local group Spitfire Knitters

Shops are a great place to **GET ADVICE** on all things knit related. They are often run by experienced knitters, as excited by yarn and interesting design as their customers!

“I think of my shop as an open house for knitters to come to look at the specialist yarns, share ideas, discuss their projects with me, and get help and advice when they need it. The key point is it's a personal service I am offering and I want my customers to enjoy the experience as much as I do talking to them.”

CATHERINE ROBB, **KATHY'S KNITS**

LOOKING BACK: Anniken Allis, Designer



“Growing up in Norway, local yarn shops were common. The one I remember best was from when I was a teenager. It was a big shop with a great selection of yarn and patterns. And the owner always had a knitting machine going in the background, knitting traditional Norwegian ski sweaters for sale. I took our local yarn shop for granted. It was always there and it was my first choice when I wanted to cast on for a new project.”

Browsing in a shop is a great way to **BUILD YOUR STASH**, ensuring that when inspiration strikes you always have a suitable yarn to hand.

“WE’RE NOT JUST SOMEWHERE TO BUY YARN!”

Husband and wife team Steve and Antonia de Boise opened **Strictly Knitting** in Shanklin, Isle of Wight in May 2012. Antonia has been a knitter for over 30 years but Steve considers himself a newbie, although he learned as a child. He tells us a bit about the highs and challenges of running a yarn shop.

“Antonia had long dreamed of running a yarn shop but did not ever feel that it would happen, until I was offered redundancy. With interest rates low, we chose

to invest the money in a new lifestyle, in the hope that the shop would provide us with a living income in the long term. Like a huge number of independent traders, the shop will for some years be a lifestyle choice. We run it on traditional grounds – that of providing a service, not just somewhere to buy yarn. We aim to satisfy as many customers as possible, providing a range of yarns from 100g bonus balls through to high-end silk merino and even hand-painted tops for those wishing to spin their own. We offer a layby



7

A yarn shop can be a great place to **FIND A BARGAIN**

"Stores often have bargain buckets for when the shop only has a few left in a certain dye-lot or wants to make space for a new yarn. You can find some superb reduced items!"

SARAH FREEMAN,
SPINS AND NEEDLES, LINCOLN



Our Facebook followers have some great yarn shop tales of their own:

■ **Sally McCutcheon Was Davis**

"We grew up in a wool shop that our mum owned and now my sister runs it. It's great to be part of the community!"

■ **Corrie Bishenden**

"Mum used to knit our clothes in the 70s. We used to go to a wool shop with her and the man would let us sit on the counter and give us a lollipop. And he had all the wonderful old wooden display cases and shelves. We loved that shop!"

■ **Karen Inglis**

"I used to work in a wool shop years ago and I loved it. The staff and customers were all lovely. It was great seeing the latest wool and patterns arrive. I also loved being able to knit when the shop wasn't busy. I so miss it."

LOOKING BACK: Adrienne Chandler, LK Deputy Editor



"I have really vivid memories of going to our local yarn shop with my mum. It was in our village and just a short walk from our house. It was one of those old-fashioned shops with the orange film in the windows. I now know that was to stop the displays from fading, but I remember being highly impressed by the colourful panes. Once inside, my mum would head off to choose the yarn for the next jumper, cardigan or toy she'd be knitting for my brother or myself. She'd be flicking through pattern books and choosing colours, but I was much more interested in picking up every tube of buttons to hear them rattle - something I still do every time I visit my local yarn shop!"

8

For some knitters, their local yarn shop is the perfect place to **LINK UP WITH LIKEMINDED CRAFTERS**.

"I have made great friends with so many lovely people I met in ANCA wools in Shrewsbury"

MURIEL LEWIS, LK READER

If your nearest shop isn't that local to you why not **MAKE AN OCCASION OF VISITING?** Says Judith of Needlecase: "You can visit the shop and enjoy the experience of seeing and touching all the beautiful yarn, find a perfect pattern for your next project and maybe pick up an unexpected bargain, then visit a local café and treat yourself to tea or coffee and something tasty."

9

Keen to improve your skills? You can **ATTEND KNITTING GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS** at an ever-growing number of stores.

"At Needlecase, we are working on developing our knowledge and expertise all the time and are eager to pass this on to our customers. We find that there is a great demand for classes and workshops and our customers really appreciate having somewhere to come and learn new things."

JUDITH SCHUR,
NEEDLECASE, TADCASTER

BEST BUYS!

Here's a taste of some of the discounts and offers you can find around the country on Yarn Shop Day

THE CRAFT BOX, BARNSELY:

Up to 50% off selected yarns!
COTTONTAIL CRAFTS, SETTLE: 25% off Peter Pan yarns, 10% off everything else and a raffle to win a £65 Prym loom!
M & G DESIGNS, LOUTH: customers will choose hourly discounts of 10% by picking names of spinners out of a hat!

service (setting selected goods aside and allowing the customer to pay for them in instalments), informal help and advice, and regular workshops in both knitting and crochet.

Highs

We are often told how pleasant the shop is: bright, light and welcoming; uncluttered but with a great range of yarns in fantastic colours. Our customers say we're "a real knitting shop where you can get good advice and help" and we often hear "it's just like walking into a sweet shop" when they see our display of buttons! Of course, the biggest buzz we get is with returning customers both from the Island itself and holiday makers, many of whom make us one of their first visits when they get off the

ferry so that they can knit a project whilst taking in the sun.

Challenges

Starting a new business at any time can be a real challenge, but starting it in an economic recession is not recommended! The Island offers its own challenges. Although yarn craft is no longer confined to the older generation, the Island population is very much of this group. This, combined with transport and mobility issues, is something we felt the need to address. Just after Christmas we launched a mobile service nicknamed 'Woolly Wheels': we now take the shop to knitting groups in villages across the Island, a number of which are based in sheltered accommodation. We have also just launched our online shop."



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Bea is a gloriously summery cardigan from *James C. Brett*

This lightweight cardigan is great for showing off a variety of stitches, combining ribbing, cables and basketweave. Bea is knitted in Cotton On DK from James C. Brett, who is supporting our Love Your Yarn Shop campaign. It would look great with those pretty floral dresses and skirts you've been dying to start wearing again!

START KNITTING ON P70



"I love the zingy hues of this vibrant colourway – it puts me on the mood for summer!"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR
ADRIENNE CHANDLER

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MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Dress size (approx):

4-6, (8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22)

To fit chest (cm):

71-76 (81-86, 91-97, 102-107, 112-117)

Actual chest (cm):

84 (95, 105, 117, 127)

Full length (approx):

43 (46, 48, 50, 52)

KNIT KIT

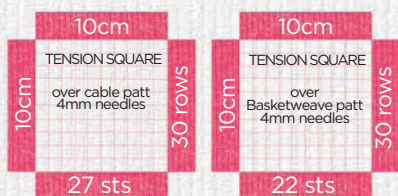
Yarn: James C Brett Cotton On DK, shade CO20, 4 (5, 6, 7, 8) 50g balls

Needles: 3.25mm - included with this issue of LK, 4mm

Cable needle

Buttons:

6 (6, 7, 7, 7)



ABOUT THE YARN

Spun from 50% cotton and 50% acrylic, **James C. Brett Cotton On** is just the ticket for your summer knits. As it is available in 15 fun and vibrant shades and is machine washable. You will get plenty of wear out of it and could use it for babies and children too.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

T2B: Slip next st on to cn and hold at back of work, k1 then k1 from cn

C6B: Slip next three sts on to cn and hold at back of work, k3 then k3 from cn

C6F: Slip next three sts on to cn and hold at front of work, k3 then k3 from cn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



James C. Brett Cotton On DK DK has an RRP of £2.09 per 50g (145m) ball. To find a stockist, go to www.jamescbrett.co.uk or call 01274 565959.



Skirt, £19.99, Uniqlo

Basketweave pattern

- Row 1: k
- Row 2: p
- Row 3: k2, * p4, k2, rep from * to end
- Row 4: * p2, k4, rep from * to last two sts, p2
- Rows 5-6: as Rows 3-4
- Rows 7-8: as Rows 1-2
- Row 9: p3, * k2, p4, rep from * to last five sts, k2, p3
- Row 10: k3, p2, * k4, p2, rep from * to last three sts, k3
- Row 11: as Row 9

- Row 12: k3, p2, * k4, p2, rep from * to last three sts, k3
- Rep Rows 1-12

START KNITTING HERE

Back

- Using 3.25mm needles and thumb method, cast on 91 (103, 115, 127, 139) sts
- Work in k1, p1 rib until piece meas 3cm, ending after a RS row
- Next row: rib to end inc one st in centre of row. 92 (104, 116,

128, 140) sts

Change to 4mm needles

□ Work in Basketweave patt (throughout) for 62 rows

SHAPE RAGLANS

- Cast off 4 (5, 6, 6, 6) sts in patt at beg of next two rows. 84 (94, 104, 116, 128) sts
- Work 2 (2, 4, 10, 14) rows dec one st at each end of every row. 80 (90, 96, 96, 100) sts
- Work 42 (50, 54, 54, 56) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 38 (40, 42, 42, 44) sts
- Cast off in patt

Left front

- Using 4mm needles and thumb method, cast on 54 (61, 69, 76, 83) sts
- Row 1: k0 (0, 0, 0, 1), p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), [k2, p2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, [T2B, p2] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, * k9, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k9, p2, T2B, p1
- Row 2 and every alt row: k1, p2, k2, p9, * k2, [p2, k2] four times, p9, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, [k2, p2] 3 (5, 0, 2, 3) times, k1 (0, 1, 0, 2), p0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
- Row 3: k0 (0, 0, 0, 1), p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), [k2, p2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, [T2B, p2] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, * C6B, k3, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, C6B, k3, p2, T2B, p1
- Row 5: as Row 1
- Row 7: k0 (0, 0, 0, 1), p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), [k2, p2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, [T2B, p2] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, * k3, C6F, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k3, C6F, p2, T2B, p1
- Row 8: k1, p2, k2, p9, * k2, [p2, k2] four times, p9, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, [k2, p2] 3 (5, 0, 2, 3) times, k1 (0, 1, 0, 2), p0 (0, 0, 0, 1)

These eight rows set patt
□ Keeping continuity of patt as set, cont until Left front meas same as Back to shape raglan, ending after a WS row

SHAPE RAGLAN

- Next row: cast off 4 (5, 6, 6, 6) sts in patt, patt to end. 50 (56, 63, 70, 77) sts
- Next row: patt
- Work 12 (14, 20, 28, 34) rows dec one st at raglan edge on every row. 38 (42, 43, 42, 43) sts
- Work 15 (21, 21, 19, 19) rows

dec one st at raglan edge on next and every foll alt row. 30 (31, 32, 32, 33) sts

SHAPE NECK

- ❑ Next row: cast off 4 (4, 4, 4, 5) sts in patt, patt to end. 26 (27, 28, 28, 28) sts
- ❑ Next row: patt2tog, patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 24 (25, 26, 26, 26) sts
- ❑ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 0, 0, 1) times. 18 (19, 26, 26, 19) sts
- ❑ Next row: cast off 4 (5, 5, 5, 5) sts in patt, patt to end. 14 (14, 21, 21, 14) sts
- ❑ Next row: patt2tog, patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 12 (12, 19, 19, 12) sts
- ❑ Rep last two rows 0 (0, 1, 1, 0) times. 12 sts
- ❑ Work five rows dec one st at raglan edge on second and foll alt row **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at neck edge on every row. Five sts
- ❑ Work five rows dec one st at raglan edge only on next and every foll alt row. Two sts
- ❑ Next row: p2tog
- ❑ Fasten off

Right front

Using 4mm needles and thumb method, cast on 54 (61, 69, 76, 83) sts

- ❑ Row 1: p1, T2B, p2, * k9, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k9, [p2, T2B] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, [p2, k2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), k0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
- ❑ Row 2 and every alt row: p0 (0, 0, 0, 1), k1 (0, 1, 0, 2), [p2, k2] 3 (5, 0, 2, 3) times, p9, * k2, [p2, k2] four times, p9, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k2, p2, k1
- ❑ Row 3: p1, T2B, p2, * C6B, k3, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, C6B, k3, [p2, T2B] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, [p2, k2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), k0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
- ❑ Row 5: as Row 1
- ❑ Row 7: p1, T2B, p2, * k3, C6F, p2, T2B, [p2, k2] twice, p2, T2B, p2, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k3, C6F, [p2, T2B] 1 (1, 0, 1, 1) times, [p2, k2] 2 (4, 0, 1, 2) times, p1 (0, 1, 0, 2), k0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
- ❑ Row 8: p0 (0, 0, 0, 1), k1 (0, 1, 0, 2), [p2, k2] 3 (5, 0, 2, 3) times, p9, * k2, [p2, k2] four times, p9, rep from * 0 (0, 1, 1, 1) times, k2, p2, k1
- Rows 1-8 set patt
- ❑ Keeping continuity of patt

as set, cont until Right front meas same as Back to raglan shaping, ending after a WS row

- ❑ Next row: patt

SHAPE RAGLAN

- ❑ Next row: cast off 4 (5, 6, 6, 6) sts in patt, patt to end. 50 (56, 63, 70, 77) sts
- ❑ Work 12 (14, 20, 28, 34) rows dec one st at raglan edge on every row. 38 (42, 43, 42, 43) sts
- ❑ Work 14 (20, 20, 18, 18) rows dec one st at raglan edge on next and every foll alt row. 31 (32, 33, 33, 34) sts

SHAPE NECK

- ❑ Next row: cast off 4 (4, 4, 4, 5) sts in patt, patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 26 (27, 28, 28, 28) sts
- ❑ Next row: patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 25 (26, 27, 27, 27) sts
- ❑ Rep last two rows 1 (1, 0, 0, 1) times. 19 (20, 27, 27, 20) sts
- ❑ Next row: cast off 4 (5, 5, 5, 5) sts in patt, patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 14 (14, 21, 21, 14) sts
- ❑ Next row: patt to last two sts, patt2tog. 13 (13, 20, 20, 13) sts
- ❑ Rep last two rows 0 (0, 1, 1, 0) times. 13 sts
- ❑ Work five rows dec one st at raglan edge on next and every foll alt row **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at neck edge on every row. Five sts
- ❑ Work six rows dec one st at raglan edge only on second and every foll alt row. Two sts
- ❑ Next row: p2tog
- ❑ Fasten off

Sleeves (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and thumb method, cast on 67 (73, 79, 87, 93) sts

- ❑ Work 5 (5, 7, 7, 7) rows in k1, p1 rib
- ❑ Next row: rib 4 (5, 6, 6, 6), rib2tog, [rib 12 (13, 14, 10, 11), rib2tog] 4 (4, 4, 6, 6) times, rib 5 (6, 7, 7, 7). 62 (68, 74, 80, 86) sts

SHAPE RAGLANS

- Change to 4mm needles
- ❑ Starting with Row 5 of Basketweave patt and working in Basketweave patt (throughout), work 4 (8, 8, 8, 8) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll 0 (4th, 4th, 4th, 4th) row. 60 (64, 70,

76, 82) sts

- ❑ Work 42 (46, 52, 58, 64) rows dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row. 18 sts
- ❑ Cast off in patt

Neckband

Join raglan seams

- Using 3.25mm needles with RS facing, pick up and k 27 (28, 30, 30, 31) sts evenly along right side of neck, 18 sts from top of right Sleeve, 37 (39, 41, 41, 43) sts from 38 (40, 42, 42, 44) cast-off sts at back of neck, 18 sts from top of left Sleeve and 27 (28, 30, 30, 31) sts evenly along left side of neck. 127 (131, 137, 137, 141) sts
- ❑ Next row: k
- ❑ Beg with Row 2 of 1x1 rib, work seven rows
- ❑ Cast off in rib

Right front border

- ❑ Using 3.25mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and k 85 (95, 101, 107, 113) sts evenly along front edge and six sts evenly along Neckband. 91 (101, 107, 113, 119) sts

❑ Next row: k

- ❑ Work two rows in k1, p1 rib
- ❑ Next row: rib 5, cast off two sts, [rib 13 (15, 13, 14, 15), cast off two sts] 5 (5, 6, 6, 6) times, rib three
- ❑ Next row: rib 4, cast on two sts, [rib 14 (16, 14, 15, 16), cast on two sts] 5 (5, 6, 6, 6) times, rib 5
- ❑ Work three rows more in rib
- ❑ Cast off in rib

Left Front Border

- Using 3.25mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and k six sts evenly along Neckband and 85 (95, 101, 107, 113) sts evenly along front edge. 91 (101, 107, 113, 119) sts
- ❑ Next row: k
- ❑ Starting with Row 1 of k1, p1 rib, work seven rows
- ❑ Cast off in rib

To make up

- Sew first 6 (6, 8, 8, 8) rows of Sleeve to cast-off stitches at armhole on Fronts and Back. Sew remainder of Sleeve top in position. Join side seams. Sew on buttons **LK**





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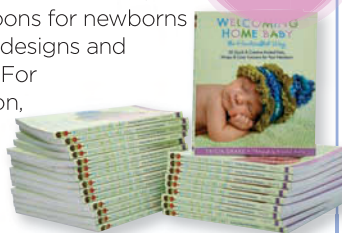
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LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE HOMEWARES PATTERN

MacKinnon

is a delicious *picnic blanket*
by *Siân Brown*

Sausage rolls, jam sandwiches, thermal flasks full of tea – what could be more idyllic than a picnic by a riverbank, or even just at your local park? The delight that comes with sharing food, drinks and games has been enjoyed for centuries, with the first use of the word 'picnic' appearing in English in 1748, in a letter by George Chesterfield. He associated the activity with cards, drinking and conversation – so not much has really changed! This gorgeous blanket uses intarsia colourwork to create a timeless tartan effect.

EASY
KNITTED
TARTAN!

START KNITTING ON P80

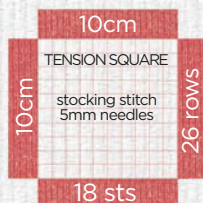


MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

100cm x 128cm

KNIT KIT

Yarn: Rowan Summer Tweed, (A) shade 508 Oats, five 50g balls, (B) shade 552 Bamboo, seven 50g balls, (C) Rowan All Seasons Cotton, shade 241 Damson, four 50g balls
Needles: 5mm circular



ABOUT THE YARN

Rowan Summer Tweed is a beautiful 70% silk and 30% cotton yarn, with a gorgeous rustic feel. The tweed texture makes it perfect for picnics in the park!

Rowan All Seasons Cotton is a smooth cotton yarn with a strong twist, creating a wonderful contrasting texture when used in tandem with the Summer Tweed.

Need an alternative yarn?

Rico Design Fashion Country Aran is a rustic yarn made from 60% acrylic, 20% wool and 20% alpaca. Try shades (A) 006 Beige, (B) 001 Pistachio, and (C) 004 Terracotta to match.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



10% off

Rowan Summer Tweed costs £6.50 per 50g (108m) skein and Rowan All Seasons Cotton costs £4.75 per 50g (90m) ball from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

For 10% off these two yarns at www.laughinghens.com use the discount code LK79

Rico Design Fashion Country Aran costs £2.99 per 50g (187m) ball from 01926 882818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk



"When changing shades mid-row during intarsia colourwork, be sure to twist your yarns together to prevent holes forming."

LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT AMY ADAMS

START KNITTING HERE

Blanket

NOTE: letters following instructions indicate correct shade
 Using 5mm circular needle and yarn B, cast on 193 sts, do not join in the round but work back and forth in rows

□ Work in moss st (see Knitwise) until piece meas 3cm, dec one st at end of last row. 192 sts
 □ Row 1: moss 6 B, (k8 A, k2 C,

k8 A, k8 B, k2 C, k8 B) five times, moss 6 B

□ Row 2: moss 6 B, (p8 B, p2 C, p8 B, p8 A, p2 C, p8 A) five times, moss 6 B

□ Rows 3-12: rep Rows 1-2 five times more

□ Row 13: moss 6 B, k to last six sts C, moss 6 B

□ Row 14: moss 6 B, p to last six sts C, moss 6 B

□ Rows 15-26: rep Rows 1-2 six times more

□ Row 27: moss 6 B, (k8 B, k2 C, k8 B, k8 A, k2 C, k8 A) five times, moss 6 B

□ Row 28: moss 6 B, (p8 A, p2 C, p8 A, p8 B, p2 C, p8 B) five times, moss 6 B

□ Rows 29-38: rep Rows 27-28 five times more

□ Rows 39-40: rep Rows 13-14

□ Rows 41-52: rep Rows 27-28 six times more

□ Rep these 52 rows five times more



□ Using yarn B, work in moss st for 3cm, inc one st at centre of first row. 193 sts

□ Cast off
 Weave in all ends and block lightly **LK**

knitwise

MOSS STITCH: Moss stitch is a basic stitch which alternates between knitting one stitch and purling one stitch. For the first row of this pattern, work (k1, p1) to the end of the row, finishing on a knit stitch. Turn your work, and begin working (k1, p1) again. This creates a lovely textured stitch pattern. If you are ever unsure which stitch to work next, always knit into the stitch that looks like a purl (bump shape) and purl into the stitch that looks like a knit (v shape).

coming next issue

KITSCH TABLECLOTH WEIGHTS BY HELEN ARDLEY

June issue of Let's Knit on sale Friday 9th May



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Go bold this spring with hot or neon pink

In the PINK



Senses 4ply pattern
8835 by Stylecraft,
£2.75 from
07974 954663,
www.awoollytail.com

1 Stylecraft Special DK – shade Fiesta, costs
£1.69 per 100g (295m) ball from
01926 882 818, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
2 DMC myboshi No. 1 – shade Neon Pink, costs
£3.99 per 55g (160m) ball from
www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk
3 Stylecraft Eskimo DK – shade Fusion, costs
£1.79 per 50g (90m) ball from 07974 954663,
www.awoollytail.com
4 Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK –
shade Pinkaboo, costs £5.69 per 50g (116m)
ball from 0845 576 0007,
www.loveknitting.com

5 Wendy Supreme Cotton Chunky –
shade Cherry, costs £3.35 per 100g (83m)
ball from 0845 003 0775,
www.wool4less.co.uk
6 James C. Brett Marble DK – shade 33,
costs £2.59 per 100g (240m) ball from
0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com
7 Katia Arte – shade Magenta, costs £4.30
per 50g (165m) ball. For stockists, go to
www.katia.com
8 Berger de France Estivale – shade
Azalee costs £4.46 per 50g (115m) ball from
01273 508768, www.cocoonknits.co.uk

5



Mins with...

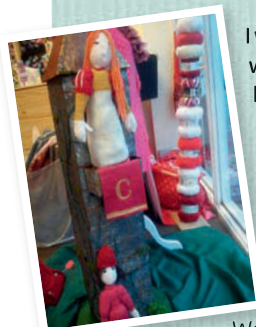
Helen Swan of Middlesbrough store Thefineyarnshop



I always wanted to work for myself but didn't exactly know what to do. I got disillusioned with working at a bank

so got involved with a local enterprise scheme. Within two weeks it was all arranged! It was unbelievable how quickly it happened!

We wanted the atmosphere to be quite relaxed. We've got a large sofa area with a table and patterns so that people can come in, sit down and have a cuppa. That's where I run the knit and natter sessions which have been going since I opened. It's a nice group, sometimes we even have children, so there's an age range from about 8 to 85!



I wanted to make the shop window a feature, because I'm on a main road. We did a knitted Christmas dinner, then Romeo and Juliet, then an Easter scene. The next, for Yarn Shop Day, will be a Mad Hatter's tea party from Alice in

Wonderland. We're already working on that, it's amazing! We're also going to run a 10% discount on the day, and we'll probably have a proper tea party as well.

I think yarn shops are a very important way of getting people together; we all teach each other things. Then there's the process of being creative: you've got to see, touch and even smell the materials before you know what you want to make with them. You can't do that on the internet.

Thefineyarnshop is at 59 Borough Road, Middlesbrough. Yarns it sells including King Cole Baby Comfort and Debbie Bliss Rialto DK. Go to www.facebook.com/thefineyarnshop for more.

WHAT'S IN Store?



Get the hot gossip from a selection of Love Your Yarn Shop stores around the UK

Clicketty Clack!

Buckinghamshire's Clicketty Clack was once an online store only, but opened a bricks-and-mortar shop around three years ago. Now, it is a main King Cole and MillaMia stockist, with a fantastic range of yarns and patterns – including King Cole's Baby Book 6, featuring this adorable Sunny Little cardi. The store will be holding discounts, special offers and a prize draw on Yarn Shop Day, so if you're in the area then be sure to pop by! **01844 273739, www.clickettyclack.co.uk**



Be inspired

Inspirations is a huge craft store based in Preston, stocking a variety of yarns and accessories in addition to papercrafting, scrapbooking and other hobby items. Make sure you pay it a visit on Yarn Shop Day, where there will be 10% off all yarns, 20% off knitting accessories, and a free pattern if you spend over £10! There will also be a crochet workshop running throughout the day with expert Claire Counce, so beginners can come along and try out a new skill. **01772 880852, inspirations.cardcraftplus.co.uk**



Upp and away!

Natural fibre specialist Stitch Upp has recently relocated to the High Street in Upperminster, and will be celebrating Yarn Shop Day on 3rd May with drop-in knitting sessions for beginners, a visit from designer Libby Summers, and a social knit and natter group in the afternoon. The shop is a big supporter of British wool, and has recently added yarns from AdriaFil, Manos del Uruguay and Artesano to its range. Call **01572 850032** or go to www.stitchupp.co.uk to find out more.



Best of British

Specialising in natural British wool, Kathy's Knits in Edinburgh stocks a sumptuous range of yarns from local spinners around the UK. This includes Blacker Designs, Jamieson & Smith, and the store's very own brand of Hebridean Mohair 4ply and Pure Wool Laceweight. There will be a prize draw on Yarn Shop Day, so make sure you spend in store before the big day to enter! Find out more at www.kathysknits.co.uk

Midas is a chunky *textured* handbag from *Lucinda Ganderton*

We adore this wonderfully elegant tote, knitted in a fabulous gold shade. The stylish leather handles and vibrant fabric lining not only give it a really professional finish, but also add to the practicality and durability of the project. It's worked in a chunky yarn so the two panels will knit up really quickly. Why not make a few versions to match different outfits?

STYLISH
KNITTED
TOTE!

START KNITTING ON P84

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

37cm wide x 35cm deep to top of corners (excluding strap)

KNIT KIT

Yarn: King Cole Merino Blend Chunky, shade 928 Old Gold, four 50g balls

Needles: 6mm

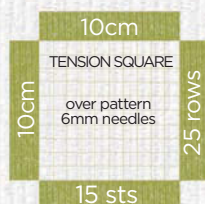
Tapestry needle

Zip: 30cm

Fabric: cotton, 85cm x 40cm

Sewing needle and thread

Bag strap: brown leather, 45cm, one



ABOUT THE YARN

King Cole Merino Blend Chunky is a superwash pure wool yarn that is smooth to knit with and easy to care for. Choose from 17 shades.

Need an alternative yarn?



Artesano British Wool is a chunky yarn that is spun right here in the UK. It comes in 12 shades, although there isn't a yellow option. It's slightly chunkier than the stated yarn so do a tension square before you begin.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

moss st:

RS rows – (k1, p1) rep as instructed [NOTE: with an odd stitch count, you will end on k1]

WS rows – all p sts and p all k sts as they appear

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



Bag handles cost £12.75 per pair from 01273 747112, www.u-handbag.com

King Cole Merino Blend Chunky costs £3.59 per 50g (67m) ball from 0845 576 0007, www.loveknitting.com

To get 10% off all orders at Loveknitting.com, turn to page 6

Artesano British Wool costs £7.67 per 100g (105m) skein from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com



START KNITTING HERE

Front and Back (alike)

Using 6mm needles, cast on 45 sts

□ Row 1 (RS): (k2, p3) to end

□ Row 2 (WS): (k3, p2) to end

□ Row 3: (p2, k3) to end

□ Row 4: (p3, k2) to end

□ Rows 5-8: rep Rows 1-4

□ Row 9: cast on eight sts, (p3, k2) to last three sts, p3. 53 sts

□ Row 10: cast on eight sts, p3, (k3, p2) to last three sts, k3. 61 sts

□ Row 11: (k3, p2) to last st, p1

□ Row 12: k3, (p3, k2) to last three sts, p3

□ Row 13: (p3, k2) to last st, k1

□ Row 14: p3, (k3, p2) to last three sts, k3

□ Rows 15-56: rep Rows 11-14 ten times, then Rows 11-12 once more

□ Rows 57-58: k

SHAPE CORNERS

□ Row 1 (RS): (k1, p1) ten times, turn

Keeping moss st correct (see

Special abbreviations), cont on these 20 sts only dec as folls:

□ Row 2 (WS): k2tog, moss to end. 19 sts

□ Row 3: moss to end

□ Row 4: p2tog, moss to end. 18 sts

□ Row 5: moss to end

□ Rep Rows 2-5 until seven sts rem, ending after a Row 2

□ Cast off

□ With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off 21 sts [one st on RH needle], (p1, k1) to last st, p1. 20 sts

□ Row 2 (WS): moss to end

□ Row 3: p2tog, moss to end. 19 sts

□ Row 4: moss to end

□ Row 5: k2tog, moss to end

□ Rep Rows 2-5 until eight sts rem, then rep Rows 2-3 once more. Seven sts

□ Cast off

short ends to make a flat base. Stitch diagonal edges of Front and Back together for 10cm down from top corners

LINING

Cut two lining pieces using knitted bag as template, leaving 1cm seam allowance. Make two 1cm snips into seam allowance at inside corners of top edge on each piece. Press back a 1cm seam allowance along three sides of this edge. With RS facing join lining in same way as bag. Sew lining to wrong side of zip along opening. Place lining inside bag and push top fabric corners up inside corners of knitted bag. Sew these together 1cm from cast-off edges. Sew top edge of knitted bag to right side of zip. Sew on handle **LK**

To make up

Placing Front and Back with WS together, sew bottom and side seams together using mattress stitch. Fold bag so side and bottom seams meet up at each corner and join





"The faux leather handle gives the bag a fashion-forward look which is just right for this season"

LK DESIGNER
LUCINDA GANDERTON

Sew delightful!

If stitching the lining for this bag has reminded you just how much you love playing with fabric, check out our sister title, Sew. The current issue comes with a FREE dressmaking pattern, and there are plenty of projects to help you furnish your home, from quilts to curtains, plus toys and accessories. Don't miss the May issue, on sale now! www.sewmag.co.uk



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Turn the tables

Keep these pages handy to guide you on your way

YARN WEIGHTS

YARN TYPE	STANDARD TENSION	STANDARD NEEDLE SIZE
Lace	30-33 sts-36-50 rows	2mm-3mm
4ply	28 sts-36 rows	3.25mm
DK	22 sts-28 rows	4mm
Aran	18 sts-24 rows	5mm
Chunky	14 sts-19 rows	6.5mm
Super Chunky	9 sts-12 rows	10mm

NEEDLE SIZING

UK (mm)	U.S.A	Old UK/Canada
2	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3	-	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	-
3.75	5	9
4	6	8
4.5	7	7
5	8	6
5.5	9	5
6	10	4
6.5	10 1/2	3
7	-	2
7.5	-	1
8	11	0
9	13	00
10	15	000
12	17	-
15	-	-
16	19	-
19	35	-
20	36	-
25	50	-

"Using the correct size of needles for the yarn weight helps to produce a taut, neat fabric"



Step on to the scales

Just like tension, the weight of yarn can greatly affect the outcome of your work – which is especially disorientating when, as with needle sizing, yarn weights differ from country to country. Here is a rough guide to US yarn weights and their equivalents

US TERM	UK EQUIVALENT
Light fingering	3 ply
Fingering	4 ply
Sport light worsted /DK	Light DK
Worsted	DK
Aran	Between DK and Aran
Bulky	Chunky
Super bulky	Superchunky

ABBREVIATIONS

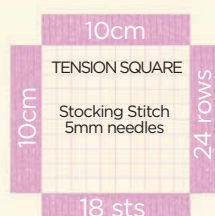
0	no stitches, times or rows	rm	remove marker
-	no stitches, times or rows for that size	RS	right side
alt	alternate	skpo	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
approx	approximately	sk2po	slip next stitch purlwise, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over and off needle
beg	beginning	sl 2, k1, p2sso	slip next two stitches knitwise at the same time, knit one, pass both slipped stitches over
bet	between	sl 1	slip one stitch
C4F	(cable 4 front) slip two stitches on to cable needle, hold at front of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	slst	slip stitch
C4B	(cable 4 back) slip two stitches onto cable needle, hold at back of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	sm	slip marker
ch	chain stitch	sp (s)	space(s)
ch sp	chain space	ssk	one by one slip the next two stitches knitwise. Put your left needle through the front loops of both slipped stitches and knit them together
circ	circular needles	st (s)	stitch (es)
cm	centimetres	st st	stocking stitch (k on RS row, p on WS row)
cn	cable needle	tbl	through the back loop (s)
cont	continue (ing)	tr	treble crochet
dc	double crochet	w & t	(on knit rows) take the yarn between the needles to the front of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn (on purl rows) take the yarn between the needles to the back of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn
dc2tog	(insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, pull through loop) twice, yarn over hook, pull through all three loops on hook	ws	wrong side
dec	decrease (ing)	wyib	with yarn in back
dpn	double pointed needle	wyif	with yarn in front
dtr	double treble crochet	yb	yarn back
fol	following	yfwd	yarn forward (between knit stitches)
htr	half treble crochet	yo	work yfwd/yon/yrn as appropriate
inc	increase (ing)	yoh	yarn over hook
k	knit	yon	yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit stitch)
kfb	knit into the front and back of the next stitch	yrn	yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)
k2tog	knit two stitches together	y2rn	wrap yarn twice around needle
kwise	knitwise	*	repeat instructions following the asterisk as many times as instructed
lp	loop	()[]	work instructions inside the brackets as many times as instructed
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it		
m1p	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and purling into the back of it		
meas	measure (s)		
mm	millimeters		
N1 (2, 3)	needle 1 (2, 3)		
p	purl		
pb	place bead		
pfb	purl into the front and back of next st		
pm	place marker		
p2tog	purl two stitches together		
prev	previous		
psso	pass slipped stitch over and off needle		
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle		
pwise	purlwise		
rem	remain (ing)		
rep	repeat (ing)		
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch (p on RS row, k on WS row)		

ESSENTIAL INFO

Everything you need to start knitting now!

Tension headache

The tension square is not the most exciting part of any project but it's one of the most important, particularly where garments are concerned. Ensuring you have the correct number of stitches and rows across your 10cm swatch is crucial to getting the right measurements and a good fit. Here's how to do it:



■ Using the yarn and needles recommended in the pattern, cast on the number of stitches given in the tension square plus six more. In this case you would need to cast on a total of 24 stitches (18+6). Making sure your stitches are not too tight or too loose, and working a knit stitch at each end of every row to prevent curling, work in

stocking stitch unless another stitch is specified until the piece measures 14cm. Cast off

■ Each knitted stitch is signified by one complete 'V' shape, so lay a ruler horizontally across your swatch, use marker pins to indicate 10cm and count the number of stitches, including half stitches. Do the same with the rows. Now compare this to the recommended tension. If there are too many stitches your tension is too tight – switch to a larger set of needles and try again. Similarly, if there are too few stitches your knitting is too loose – try with smaller size needles.



SUBSTITUTION

Substituting the specified yarn for a different one can be an excellent solution to the problem of yarn that's hard to find or out of your price range, but you need to know the facts and avoid certain pitfalls!

■ Make sure the yarn you choose has a tension that's as close as possible to the yarn suggested for the pattern. It might be possible to correct slight variations by changing the needle size but too much difference will result in an odd looking fabric, so where possible substitute a DK weight yarn for another DK and so on.

■ Give consideration to the content of the yarn and how this might affect the finished project. For example, a wool yarn knits up into a fabric that's warm and light whereas cotton is cooler and much heavier. Information on the properties of individual yarns is

available on the internet so do your research!

■ It seems like an obvious point but if your project will need to be washed often, ensure that the substitute yarn is water-safe (also known as 'superwash' or 'easycare'). If not it could shrink and felt beyond recognition!



Pattern Updates

Here at LK we try our hardest to make sure our patterns are free from errors, but sometimes they do slip through the net. Here you will find our latest pattern updates; we apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries about one of our patterns, please call **01206 508622** or email support@letsknit.co.uk. For further updates visit www.letsknit.co.uk

LK77, Woodland Toys Arnie, p42

An incorrect stitch count has been given after Row 16 on the muzzle. You should have eight sts



LK78, April Sunny, p17

For the e-reader cosy, the Chart should be repeated until the work meas 19cm, ending after a WS row



Start Right

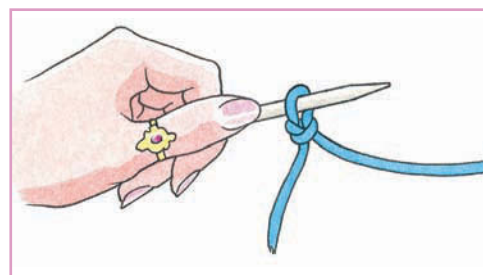
Learn to knit today with these clear guides



Making a slip knot



1 Holding the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, and pull the second loop under the first.



2 Remove the two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

Cast on

Casting on is the basis of all knitting. There are several different ways to do it, but the two-needle method shown below is often considered the simplest to master.



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.



3 Repeat the above steps, knitting into the top stitch on the left needle and returning the new stitches from the right to the left needle until you have the required number of stitches.

Knit stitch

Similar to the cast on method (above), the knit stitch is the staple of all knitting (hence the name). Shown below is the English knitting style.



1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the right needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the left needle. The right hand needle should sit behind the left hand one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the tip of the right hand needle.

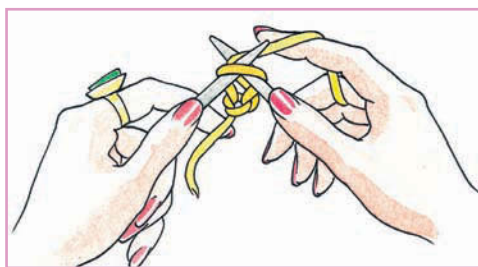


2 Using the right hand needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the right hand needle.

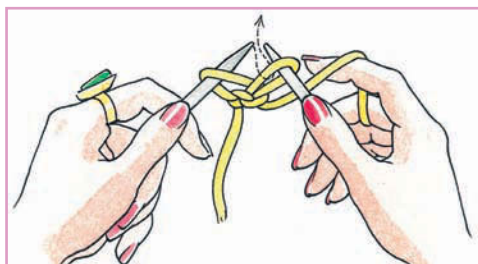


3 Slide the original stitch off the left hand needle. Repeat from step one. You are now knitting! The knit stitch can be combined with other stitches to create hundreds of different stitch patterns.

Cable cast on



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.

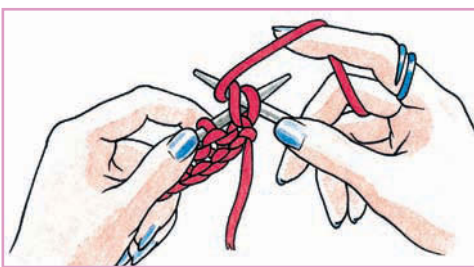


2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.

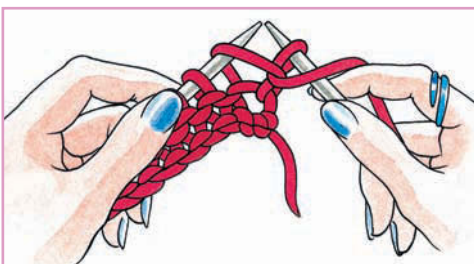


3 Insert the right needle between the two stitches on the left needle and wrap the yarn around the needle tip anticlockwise. Draw this loop through to make a stitch and slip it up and onto the left needle. Repeat this creating a new loop behind the last stitch and passing it left needle in front of the previous one.

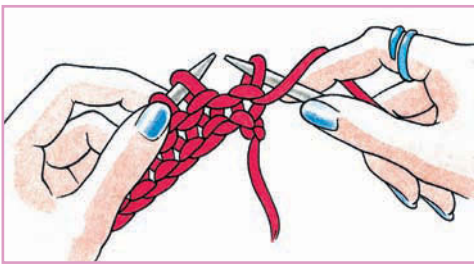
Purl stitch



1 With the ball end of the yarn at the front (toward you) insert the tip of the right hand needle into the front loop of the first stitch from the right to left and with the right hand needle in front of the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of the yarn anticlockwise around the right hand needle.



2 Draw the needle backwards and upwards, forming a new stitch on the right hand needle.



3 Once the new stitch has been formed on the right hand needle you can let the loop from the left needle slide off the end. Repeat until all the stitches have been purled and you have completed the row.

Graft the toe



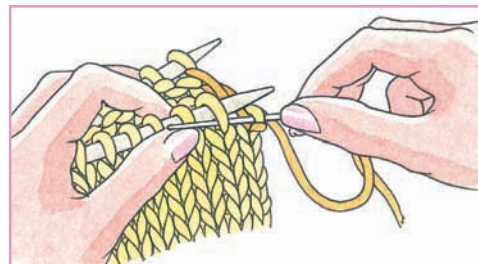
Kitchener Stitch is the method used to achieve this. It is worked as follows:

SET UP: Before starting you need to prepare the stitches on the needle. Hold the two needles with the remaining stitches parallel. The loose end of yarn should be coming from the back needle and lying to the right of the work.

1 Thread yarn end onto a tapestry needle and insert it purlwise into the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the yarn through but leave the stitch on the needle.



2 Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the back needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.



3 Having set up as shown in steps 1 and 2, repeat steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been grafted. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the front needle and slide the stitch off. Before you pull the yarn through this stitch insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the front needle purlwise and pull the yarn through, this time leaving the stitch on the needle.



4 Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on the back needle and slide it off. Before pulling the yarn through this stitch, insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the back needle knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

p34



Helping hand

If you need a refresher on basic knitting techniques, visit our website www.letsknit.co.uk. You'll also find the following step-by-step instructions in the magazine:

ssk: Bosco, p17
k2tog: Forever, p31
m1: Chimes, p34



p17

Final Stages

Finish your project like a pro

On the blocks

Blocking is the process of stretching and shaping your finished items to create the correct dimensions from the pattern. It is also really useful for ensuring that pieces to be joined fit well together. There are a few different ways to achieve this, so check the information on the yarn ball band and pick the most suitable option.

Wet blocking

Dampen the pieces so that they are wet through and gently push out excess water. Spread the sections out on a towel to air dry. Use a tape measure to ensure each part is the correct dimensions to that of the pattern and pin into the required shape.

For a more gentle option, try pinning it in place and lightly spritzing with a water spray. This is ideal

for really delicate materials like cashmere which can be damaged by too much water.

Steam iron blocking

Place a dampened cloth on top of the separate sections of your knitting. Work gently over this with a very hot iron, be careful not to let the iron come into direct contact with the knitting as it can damage the work. Continue to press the work until the cloth is dry and the knitted fibres have been loosened by the steam. Then, pin the pieces to the desired shape and measurements and leave to set.



At a loose end?

Follow these steps for sewing in any loose ends:
1 Thread the yarn onto a tapestry needle and work with the WS of the knit facing upwards.

2 Insert the needle under the loop of each stitch, and draw it through. Work it up and down the loops of the stitches for 8cm.

3 Cut the yarn close to the fabric.

4 If you are weaving at a colour change, be sure to work the loose end into the corresponding colour to prevent it from being visible at the front of the work.

Back stitch

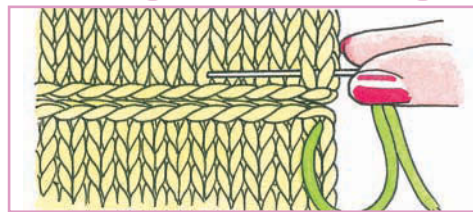


1 Pin the pieces to be joined, with the right sides together. Thread the loose end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. Start by stitching the two outer edges together, then bring the needle through the two pieces 1cm from back to front ahead of the previous stitch.

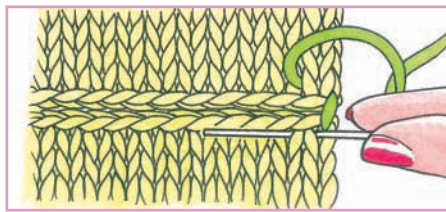


2 Push the needle back through at the previous stitch. Return it to the front of the work, approx 1cm ahead of the stitch just made. Repeat this until the whole join is complete, working in a straight line.

Joining cast off edges

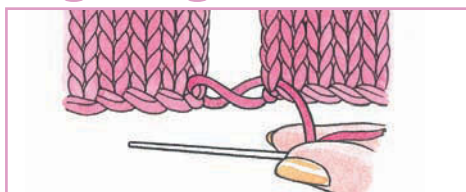


1 Lay the two pieces to be joined right side up and with the cast off edges touching. Thread a tapestry needle with the loose yarn and push this through the centre of the first stitch, and then in and out through the centres of two stitches on the opposite side.

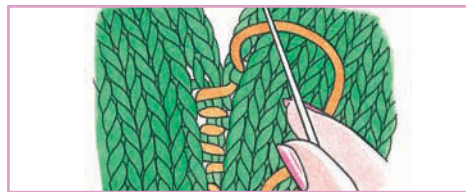


2 Take the needle over to the first side and insert where it previously exited, bringing it out through the centre of the next stitch. Repeat this process alternating sides and stitching single stitches until the pieces are joined.

Beginning a seam



1 With the pieces placed next to each other with right side upwards, thread the yarn tail through the fabric after the first stitch, moving the needle from front to back. Then, take the needle behind the first stitch on the second piece from the back of the work to the front. The yarn will form a figure 8. Tug gently to secure.



1 With the two pieces to be joined lying next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with the tapestry needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side.

2 Repeat this moving from one piece to the next and pulling the yarn to tighten the join.

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DISCLAIMER: We recommend that readers use the main specified yarn for every project as this will produce the best results. The alternatives given are suggestions only, and as no two yarns are exactly the same we advise readers to swatch an alternative yarn carefully before choosing to use it for their project. The publishers are not responsible for any safety issues arising from any items knitted from patterns contained within Let's Knit magazine.



LET'S KNIT EXCLUSIVE CROCHET PATTERN




Heligan by
Helen Free is a
collection of
crochet flowers
that are as versatile
as they are pretty

Whether used as a brooch, corsage or embellishment, any one of these fine-looking blooms would make a great addition to your project. They all use small amounts of 4ply cotton and there are three designs to choose from. The layered flower is the simplest of the three, while the sunflower is most advanced.



PRETTY
CROCHET
FLOWERS



START CROCHETING ON P94

MEASUREMENTS & SIZES

Simple flower: 6cm diameter
(excl. leaves)

Rose: 14cm tall

Sunflower: 14.5cm diameter

CROCHET KIT

Yarn: DMC Natura Just Cotton, (A) shade N16 Tournesol, (B) shade N47 Safran, (C) shade N23 Passion, (D) shade N54 Green Smoke, (E) shade N22 Tropic Brown, one 50g ball of each

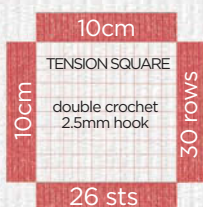
Hook: 2.5mm

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers

Wire (optional): copper beading, 28 gauge

NOTE: yarn amounts given will make multiple flowers



ABOUT THE YARN

DMC Natura Just Cotton is a soft cotton yarn that is similar to a 4ply in tension. The cotton fibre it has a clear stitch definition so it's a good choice for crochet projects. Choose from over 40 shades.

Need an alternative yarn?

Patons 100% Cotton 4ply is a mercerised cotton, which means it has been treated to make it strong and give it a pretty sheen. Try this yarn for a different look.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

magic ring: make a loop of yarn with the working yarn in front and tail hanging behind, insert hook through loop, catch working yarn and pull it through, make 1ch then work into magic ring as instructed
picot: 2ch, 1dc in second ch from hook

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 88



DMC Natura Just Cotton costs £2.99 per 50g (155m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Patons 100% Cotton 4ply costs £4.69 per 100g (330m) ball from 0845 576 0007, www.loveknitting.com

For 10% off all orders at Loveknitting, Turn to page 6



This sunflower would look fabulous on a handbag

START CROCHETING HERE

NOTE: for these designs, always work into the back loop of the foundation chain. This gives a neater finish and makes the bottom and top of the work look the same. When working into unused loops, pick up both loops as you would when working into the tops of other stitches.

SIMPLE LAYERED FLOWER

Petals
NOTE: worked in a spiral Using 2.5mm hook and yarn A, make a magic ring

□ Rnd 1 (RS): 1ch, 5dc into magic ring, pm. Five sts Pull magic ring tight and weave in end

□ Rnd 2: 2dc in each st to end. Ten sts

□ Rnd 3: (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) to end. 15 sts

□ Rnds 4-5: 1dc in each st to end

□ Rnd 6: (miss one dc, 1dc in next two sts) to end. Ten sts

□ Rnd 7: (miss one dc, 1dc in next st) to end. Five sts

□ Rnd 8: 2dc in each st to end, join yarn B in last st. Ten sts Cont in yarn B as folls:

□ Rnd 9: (3ch, miss one dc, 1dc in next st) to end. Five 3-ch sps

□ Rnd 10: * (2ch, 1tr, 4dtr, 1tr, 2ch) in next 3-ch sp, 1dc in next dc, rep from * four more times, sl st in same st as last dc. Five petals

Fasten off yarn B. Weave in ends Join yarn C to first unused dc of Rnd 9 with a sl st

NOTE: fold the petals in Rnd 9 towards you and work behind them

□ Rnd 11: 7ch (counts as 1tr, 4ch), (1tr in next unused dc, 4ch) four times, sl st to third ch at beg of rnd. 25 sts

□ Rnd 12: 1ch (does not count as st), * (1htr, 1tr, 2dtr, 2ch, sl st in second ch from hook, 2dtr, 1tr, 1htr) in ch sp, 1dc in next tr, rep from * four more times, sl st to ch at beg of rnd. 60 sts Fasten off. Weave in ends

Leaves (make two)

Attach yarn D around stem of any tr on Rnd 11 with a sl st, make six ch

□ Row 1 (RS): 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next three ch, (1dc, sl st) in next ch, turn. Six sts

□ Row 2: 1ch (does not count

as st throughout), miss one sl st, (1dc, 1htr) in next dc, 2tr in each of next three dc, (2tr, 1dtr) in next dc, 2ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, working in unused loops along other side of ch cont as folls: miss one ch, (1dtr, 2tr) in next ch, 2tr in each of next three ch, (1htr, 1dc, sl st) in next ch, turn

□ Row 3: 1ch, miss one sl st, 1dc in next 11 sts, 3dc in next dc, working down other side of Leaf cont as folls: 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next 11 sts, sl st in same ch as (1dc, sl st) from prev row

Fasten off. Weave in ends

ROSE

NOTE: 1ch at beg of row does not count as a st throughout

Leaf (make two)

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn D, make 5ch

□ Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next two ch, 3dc in next ch, working along other side of ch cont as folls: 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next two ch, sl st in next ch, turn. 11 sts

□ Rows 2-4: 1ch, miss sl st, 1dc in next four dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc in next three dc, sl st in next dc

□ Fasten off

Weave in ends and pm in fourth, fifth and sixth dc on first leaf, and sixth, seventh and eighth dc on second leaf

Petals 1-3

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn C, make 5ch

□ Row 1: 2dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next three ch, turn. Five sts

□ Row 2: 1ch, sl st in first dc, 1dc in next two dc, 1htr in next two dc, turn

□ Row 3: 1ch, 1dc in first htr, miss one htr, 1dc in next three sts. Four sts

□ Fasten off

Petals 4-6

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn C, make 6ch

□ Row 1: 2dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next four ch, turn. Six sts

□ Row 2: 1ch, sl st in first dc, 1dc in next two dc, 1htr in next dc, 1tr in next two dc, turn

□ Row 3: 1ch, dc in first tr, miss one tr, 1dc in next four sts. Five sts

□ Fasten off

Petals 7-9

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn C, make 7ch

□ Row 1: 2dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next five ch, turn. Seven sts

□ Row 2: 1ch, sl st in first two dc, 1dc in next two dc, 1htr in next three dc, turn

□ Row 3: 1ch, 1dc in first five sts, sl st in next two sts, turn

□ Row 4: as Row 2

□ Row 5: 1ch, 1dc in first 1htr, miss one htr, 1dc in next five sts. Six sts

□ Fasten off

EDGING

□ 1ch, * insert hook in end of Row 5 of first petal, yoh and draw through a loop, insert hook in end of Row 3 of first petal, yoh and draw through a loop, yoh and draw through all loops on hook, 1dc in end of Row 1 of first petal, rep from * for each of the next two petals

□ * Insert hook in end of Row 3 of fourth petal, yoh and draw through a loop, insert hook in end of Row 1 of fourth petal, yoh and draw through a loop, yoh and draw through all loops on hook, rep from * for each of the next five petals

□ Fasten off leaving a long tail

Receptacle and sepals

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn D and leaving a tail 1m in length, make a magic ring

□ Rnd 1: 5dc into magic ring, pm, do not pull tight. Five sts

□ Rnd 2: 2dc in each dc to end. Ten sts

□ Rnds 3-4: 1dc in each dc to end

□ Rnd 5: * 1dc in next dc, 4ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1htr in next two ch, miss one dc, rep from * four more times, sl st in next dc

□ Fasten off leaving a long tail

To make up

NOTE: If using rose as an embellishment or motif, roll up Petals and attach Receptacle as below, omitting wire. Cut 1m of wire and fold it into 4, twist it together leaving a small loop at top. Fold it in half again and twist it together, leaving a small loop at top. Sew wire on to first petal, then starting with first petal, roll petals tightly together and sew them in place. Insert wire stem into magic circle on Receptacle, pull tail of magic ring tight and sew on to petals

STEM (WIRE VERSION)

□ Using 1m tail from Receptacle, work 10dc over wire

□ Cont to work dc over wire

AT THE SAME TIME working into three marked sts on first leaf followed by three marked sts on second leaf

□ Cont to work dc over wire until it is covered. Fasten off. Weave in ends

STEM (NON-WIRE VERSION)

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn D, make 30ch

□ 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next 13ch

□ * Line up three marked sts on second leaf with next three ch and working through both layers work 1dc in next three

sts, rep from * for first leaf

□ 1dc in next ten ch

Fasten off. Weave in ends

SUNFLOWER

NOTE: wire in Rnds 7 and 9 is optional but will help keep the petals in place if using as a brooch or corsage. 1ch at beg of rnd does not count as a st throughout

Flower back

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn A, make 2ch

□ Rnd 1 (RS): 6dc in first ch, sl st in second ch, turn. Six sts

□ Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in each dc to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 12 sts

□ Rnd 3: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next dc) to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 18 sts

□ Rnd 4: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next two dc) to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 24 sts

□ Rnd 5: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next three dc) to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 30 sts

PETALS

Cont with yarn A

□ Rnd 6: 1ch, * 1dc in next dc, commence short-row shaping as folls:

□ Petal Row 1: 7ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next four ch, sl st in next ch, turn

□ Petal Row 2: miss one sl st, 1dc in next four dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working in unused loops along other side of ch cont as folls: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next four ch, sl st in next ch, turn

□ Petal Row 3: miss one sl st, 1dc in first six dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working along other side of petal cont as folls: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, dc in next six dc, 1dc in same st as sl st, miss one dc on Rnd 5.

□ Rep from * 14 more times, sl st in first ch, turn. 15 petals

□ Rnd 7 (edging first layer of petals): 1ch, (1dc in first nine dc, 3dc in next dc, working along other side of petal cont as folls: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next eight dc, 1dc in same st as sl st, miss one dc) 15 times, sl st in first ch, turn. 345 sts

SECOND LAYER OF PETALS

NOTE: Rnd 8 is worked into unused sts on Rnd 5. Petals are worked in front of Rnd 6 but, as the back of the flower is facing you, they will end up

crochet clever

TOP MARKS: To help you know how far you have worked, when working in a spiral, place a marker at the beginning of the round and move it up on each round.

behind the petals worked on Rnd 6

□ Rnd 8: 1ch, ** 1dc in next unused dc on Rnd 5, commence short-row shaping as folls:

□ Petal Row 1: 9ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next six ch, sl st in next ch, turn

□ Petal Row 2: miss one sl st, 1dc in next six dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working in unused loops along other side of ch cont as folls: miss one ch, 2dc in next ch, 1dc in next six ch, sl st in next ch, turn.

□ Petal Row 3: miss one sl st, 1dc in next eight dc, 2dc in next dc, picot, working along other side of petal work as folls: miss one st, 2dc in next dc, 1dc in next eight dc, 1dc in same st as sl st.

□ Rep from ** 14 more times, sl st in first ch, turn. 15 petals

□ Rnd 9 (edging second layer of petals): 1ch, (1dc in next 11 dc, 3dc in next dc, working in unused loops along other side of petal cont as folls: miss one ch, 2dc in next st, 1dc in next ten dc, 1dc in same st as sl st, miss one dc) 15 times, sl st in first ch. 405 sts

□ Fasten off. Weave in ends

Centre

Using 2.5mm hook and yarn E, make 2ch

□ Rnd 1: 2ch, 6dc in first ch, sl st in second ch, turn. Six sts

□ Rnd 2: 1ch, (1dc, 1dtr) in each dc to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 12 sts

□ Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc in each dc to end, sl st in first ch, turn. 24 sts

□ Rnd 4: 1ch, (1dc in next dc, 1dtr in next dc) 12 times, sl st in first ch, turn

□ Rnd 5: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 1dc in next dc) 12 times, sl st in first ch, turn. 36 sts

□ Rnd 6: 1ch, (1dc in next dc, 1dtr in next dc) 18 times, sl st in first ch

□ Fasten off

Sew to front of flower back, weave in ends **LK**



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“I knitted wherever I went!”

We catch up with **Kyoko Nakayoshi** to talk London, Japan, and cats!

Once a successful pharmacist, Kyoko Nakayoshi left her job in healthcare to begin a career in knitting. After learning the basic techniques as a youngster in Japan, Kyoko moved to London in her early teenage years, and continues to be inspired by her life in England's capital. She works hard designing knitwear that combines both Japanese and Western techniques, and maintaining her website, Cotton & Cloud.

I fell in love with knitting when I was seven years old.

I saw a craft TV channel which was featuring knitting and I knew that was the craft I wanted to pursue. Luckily my grandmother could knit, so she taught me how, although she insisted that I start with crochet first and that is why I can crochet as well.

While I worked as a pharmacist, I always knitted during the breaks in the hospital. Some people joined me and it was great, but it wasn't enough for me. I knitted wherever I went, and I loved every minute of creativity. Then I realised that the common denominator in my life had always been knitting and realised that this must be what I wanted for my career.

Many of my inspirations come from the wonderful memories I have from my childhood in Japan. I started knitting Japanese style first, which is a chart-based method, so I have a very visual way of designing my knitting. There are lovely knitted garment designs in Japan, but I think more people crochet, especially crocheted accessories. But I know that more people do knit now because of Ravelry. The knitting scene in Japan continues to be really exciting. More recently, I've noticed that more and more people are knitting from English patterns.



London inspires my creative thinking. Things in London change all the time with new exhibitions and new shops. At the same time, there are lots of very interesting histories to discover wherever you walk. I love finding new and old things in the markets, too. All these experiences keep my mind fresh, and motivate me to create something new and different.

The brand name Cotton & Cloud comes from my very first cats Wata & Kumo (meaning cotton and cloud in Japanese). They have always been the inspiration of my life – they are happy, fun, exciting and at the same time gentle, and always soft and warm. To me knitting is all these qualities and I wanted to share such an amazing craft and inspire people around the world through my knitting designs!

I am expecting my first child in late spring, so I will be producing lots of new baby designs. I am also adding a series of useful tutorials on the Cotton & Cloud website, to go with many of my knitting patterns and help my customers learn to knit well and enjoy the finished items!

For more information on Kyoko and her products, visit www.cottonandcloud.com



TOP
Five

Kyoko's top choice of yarns in her stash

1 Jamieson's of Shetland: I can knit anything with their yarn. The finished items last and it's guaranteed to keep me warm.

2 Fyberspates Scrumptious Aran: I know I will be able to make a great cardigan with it.

3 My hand-dyed yarns: Because I dyed them, they are special and I cannot reproduce the same colours anymore!

4 Blue Sky Alpacas Sports/Melange: Just so lovely as it is a skein. It knits up gorgeously into warm garments and accessories.

5 Any natural organic yarns: There is something very precious about these.

stash BUSTER

If you have one or two balls of 4ply, simple fingerless gloves are a good idea. You could do the same with DK, but you would need to knit with a smaller tension to make sure the gloves are windproof.

Coming next issue

WE TALK TO FRANKLIN HABIT ABOUT HIS INTRODUCTION TO KNITTING, AND HIS CAREER FROM THEN ON. ON SALE: 9TH MAY



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